

Hafa Adai!

'King of the Grill' at Taste of the Marianas on June 17. **PAGE 5**

Ex-parolee who threatened 2 others found guilty of assault. **PAGE 6**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 118

www.saipantribune.com

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023

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Torres' motion to reconsider Kingman admission is denied

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has denied former governor Ralph DLG Torres' request to reconsider the admission granted special prosecutor James Robert Kingman to participate in prosecuting the case against him.



Torres



Kingman

The Supreme Court issued yesterday its order on Torres' request for reconsideration regarding special prosecutor Kingman's pro hac vice (or "for this purpose only") admission to represent the Office of the Attorney General in its on-

See **TORRES** on Page 4

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, right, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, left, are shown the training facilities where T'way Air provides training to its pilots, flight attendants, and other airline crew. Palacios met with the senior leadership of T'way Air last week in a series of meetings that included discussions with other airlines that currently fly to the CNMI from South Korea.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

'Korea market recovering; Japan slow but steady; China 0'



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

So far, the CNMI's Korea tourism market is recovering well, while the Japan

market is recovering steadily but very slowly, and there are zero flights from China.

That, in a nutshell, is where the CNMI's tourism industry is right now, according to

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion in his remarks during yesterday's House Ways and Means

See **KOREA** on Page 4

'1994 \$15M loan to build Guma Hustisia fully paid in 2022'



Attao



Manglona

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government's \$15-million loan from the NMI Retirement Fund in 1994 to build the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe was paid

in full in March 2022, according to CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona.

Speaking at the House Ways and Means Committee hearing for the proposed

See **GUMA** on Page 4

Walt Nauta is latest Trump loyalist to face potential prison time after working for him

By JILL COLVIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—When

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

107

former President Donald Trump appeared in federal court Tuesday, he was joined

at the defense table by a man well-practiced in standing by

See **WALT** on Page 4



Former President Donald Trump's valet Walt Nauta visits Versailles restaurant with Trump on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, in Miami. AP

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Black Construction Corp. is celebrating its 65th Anniversary of doing business in Micronesia.

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NATION

Former President Donald Trump pleads not guilty to criminal charges in a federal courthouse.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

Artificial intelligence has been used to extract John Lennon's voice to create "a Beatles record."

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Local

'King of the Grill' at Taste of the Marianas on June 17

» 'Taste' tokens available at MVA

Light the grill!

The Budweiser King of the Grill 2023 gives the public the chance to choose a winner this Saturday, June 17, at the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden at Garapan Fishing Base on Saipan.

And to get festivalgoers to the food faster, festival tokens can be purchased before Saturday at the Marianas Visitors Authority office on the first floor of the Gold Beach Hotel, Beach Road, Saipan, from 1pm to 4pm, Monday through Friday (except holidays). Individuals wanting to purchase tokens before Saturday may do so with cash at the MVA office or with PayPal or credit/debit card at www.mymarianas.com (select "Pay via PayPal.") for pickup at the MVA office or in the expedited line at the token booth at the festival grounds.

"It's going to be another exciting Saturday with a great entertainment lineup and the Budweiser King of the Grill," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "If you have not yet gotten your tokens and want to skip the token booth line, just stop by the MVA office in the afternoon during the week and you can quickly purchase tokens in advance...more time to enjoy the fun on Saturday!"

Budweiser King of the Grill 2023, organized by the *Marianas Variety* in celebration of Father's Day, will kick off at 4pm with the Chefs Division, featuring chefs from local eateries. For \$20 beginning at 5:30pm, festivalgoers can sample 10 steak entries while imbibing a cold Budweiser and voting for the People's Choice winner. Around 6pm, the Indies Division will light up. Registration is still open, and registration forms and regulations are available at the reception office of *Marianas Variety* in Garapan or online. Cash prizes await the winners. The contest is also sponsored by Payless Super-Fresh & Truckload Store, Joeten Wholesale, and MVA.

The Taste of the Marianas, the largest food festival in the Marianas and an annual signature event of the MVA, is being held every Saturday in June. The festival offers affordable dishes from local hotels and restaurants, live entertainment, and arts and crafts sales from 5pm to 10pm nightly and until 11pm on the final night.

This Saturday's entertainment lineup will be Santiago Production (4:30pm), Da Kine (5pm), Marvin Deleon Guerrero (6pm), Unshakable (7pm), The Profound Bandits (7:30pm), High Tide (8pm), and Marianas Project Band (9pm).

At last Saturday's Inas' Fried Chicken Wing Eating Contest, Michael Do downed 48 pieces of chicken to win first place and a \$300 gift certificate from Inas' Kitchen. He was followed by Nazario Ajoste with 47 pieces and a \$200 gift certificate, and in third place, Gai Madge with 44 pieces and a \$100 gift certificate.

Participating food vendors this year are Bistro Boyz 670, Chagi Norf, Chow Time, Cristianos Kitchen, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Furusato Restaurant Saipan, Herman's Modern Bakery, Island Grinz, Java Joe's, Kamakazee's, Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant, Saipan Cup Bab, Restaurant Loco & Taco, Majesty Restaurant, Mariana Lighthouse, Matty's BBQ, Pho Tam, Oh My Grill – OMG – Saipan, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Surf Club Saipan/Great Harvest Bread Co. Saipan, T-Bar CNMI, The Hut, Tyler's Gelatte Stone, and Vi-lynn's BBQ. Drink vendors are MARPAC, WESTCO and Napu Brewing.

The event is co-organized by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. Platinum sponsors are Marianas Variety, Dave Electronics, and Turnkey Solutions. Gold sponsor is Hawaiian Rock Products. Silver sponsor is Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. Bronze sponsors are EST Rental, Jonny's Bar & Grill, New XO Market, Triple J Five Star Wholesale, M&C LLC Construction, Joeten Enterprises, and Northern Marianas Technical Institute. (MVA)

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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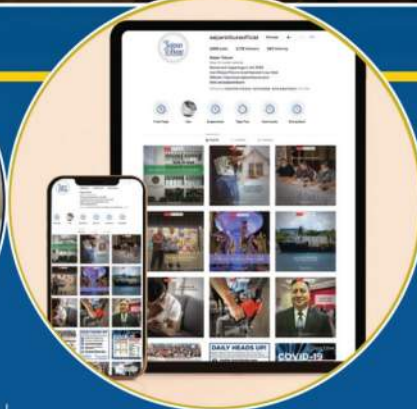
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Youth Congress session set

the first day, second regular session of the 19th CNMI Youth Congress is scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2023, at 11am in the House of Representative chamber. (PR)

GCC board meeting set

The Guam Community College board of trustees will hold a special meeting on Friday, June 16, 2023, at 12pm at Guam Community College in Room 112, Learning Resource Center (GCC Library), Building 4000. (PR)

SCC, Sablan discuss challenges, opportunities facing NMI

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce board of directors met with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) last week to discuss bills he recently introduced, including but not limited to, H.R. 1420, to modify the "touchback" requirement for CW workers; and H.R. 560, the Northern Marianas Population Stabilization Act.

The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities facing the business community in the Northern Marianas such as granting the CNMI access to the Essential Air Service Program; Temporary Labor Certification delays; adding the Philippines to the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program to entice tourists to the islands; and other concerns.

Fisheries scholarship applications deadline

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and its Education Committee members announced yesterday the availability of up to three graduate scholarships for the 2023-2024 academic year. These scholarships support the aspiration of American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to build their capacity to effectively manage their fisheries and related resources by employing people from the local communities.

Students with strong ties to these territories are eligible for scholarships that cover the cost of tuition and fees and some living expenses. The amount will be based on the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's estimated cost of attendance.

Funding for the scholarships comes in part from the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund, NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office and Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center.

For further details, contact Amy Vandehey at info@wp-council.org or phone (808) 522-8220. (PR)

Water service interruption this Friday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Friday, June 16, 2023, from 8:30am to 4:30pm, in Kagman 3.

■ Area(s) affected: Customers along Lalanghita Road, Puteng Drive, Chopak Drive, Hamlag Avenue, Forbidden Island Road, Dyer Fig Street, Pine Drive, Matbas Drive, Papega Drive, Niyorom Street, Nigas Avenue, Hagu Avenue, Tuba Tuba Street, Half Flower Street, Sour Plum Street, Velvet Leaf Court, Apilas Avenue, Ironwood Street, Hoda Avenue, Agatelang Avenue, and Pahong Street.

See WATER on Page 4

An SCC statement yesterday described the meetings as "productive" and that Sablan

expressed a desire to work together on issues affecting island businesses.

"The [SCC], as the leading voice for businesses in the CNMI, was pleased to hear

directly from Congressman Sablan on challenges that affect the islands and looks forward to

building upon this initial meeting and leveraging the expertise and resources of Congressman Sablan's office," the SCC news release stated. (PR)

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PETS OF THE WEEK

Sandy, Brindy, and Auby

Sandy is a female dog who was dropped off at the shelter with a litter of puppies that are all adopted out, but now mama needs a home. She is a very sweet, loyal, and friendly girl who needs a loving home or backyard to protect.

Brindy is a 14-week-old female puppy living in foster care with little kids, toddlers, cats, and dogs, and gets along with everybody.

Auby is a super friendly, female German Shepherd-mix puppy who is available at the shelter.

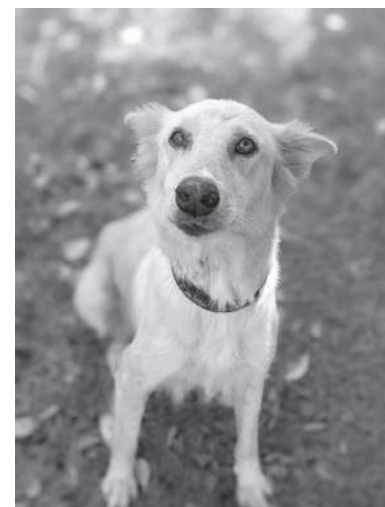
Sandy and Brindy are available for



Auby



Brindy



Sandy

adoption at the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter. Contact them at (670)-234-3647 (DOGS). Shelter hours are from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm.

For inquiries about veterinary services, reach out to Saipan Humane Society at info@saipanhumanesociety.org or Whatsapp +1 (670) 838-7387.

Saipan Tribune is partnering with Lauren Cabrera, founder of the Saipan Humane Society, in collaboration with the SMO Animal Shelter in As Perdido, to feature their adoptable dogs into loving homes. Whether you are looking for a guard dog, lap dog, hiking buddy, or playful puppy, they most likely have the dog for you!

WALT

From Page 1

his side: his valet turned alleged co-conspirator, Walt Nauta.

Nauta, a Navy veteran born in Guam who fetched Trump's Diet Cokes as his valet at the White House before joining him as a personal aide at Mar-a-Lago, now finds himself in legal jeopardy alongside the former president. He is accused of moving boxes containing reams of sensitive information at Trump's direction and then lying about it to investigators.

On Tuesday, Nauta traveled in the former president's motorcade to the Miami courthouse, where Trump became the first former president in U.S. history to be indicted on federal charges. In court, the two sat at the defendants' table together—one of

Trump's attorneys between them—as Trump pleaded not guilty to dozens of felony counts accusing him of hoarding classified documents and refusing government demands to give them back. Nauta himself did not enter a plea because he did not have a local attorney and will instead be arraigned on June 27.

After the appearance, Nauta accompanied Trump to a stop at Miami's famed Cuban restaurant Versailles, where he helped usher supporters eager to take selfies with the former president.

Nauta is the latest in a series of Trump loyalists to face potential jail time after his work for the former president. Michael Cohen, Trump's longtime fixer and attorney, spent more than 13 months in prison over payouts he helped arrange during the 2016 presidential race to keep women from going public about alleged

sexual encounters with Trump. And Allen Weisselberg, the former chief financial officer at the Trump Organization, just finished serving three months at Rikers Island after pleading guilty to receiving \$1.7 million in unreported job perks.

"Loyalty to Donald Trump is like First Avenue in Manhattan: one way. History has shown time and again that Donald cares for no one other than himself," said Cohen, who has since turned on Trump and eventually tried to win leniency by cooperating with prosecutors.

Nauta, according to the indictment unsealed Friday, played a crucial role in the alleged scheme with Trump. The government alleges Nauta helped pack Trump's boxes before he left the White House and repeatedly moved them to various rooms at Mar-a-Lago in response to Trump's requests.

Fund, it went to pay the loan for the court house. Since that loan has already been paid, Camacho said there is a special setup called the Justice Fund, that's where those funds go.

She said there is an existing statute that says a portion of the funds will be for the rehabilitation of the Guma' Hustisia.

"There's additional clause in the existing statute that explains [that] after the loan is paid off, a percentage of that is set aside for the continuing rehabilitation of the building," she said.

Not that he wants to take money away from the court, Castro said, but the fact that the loan has already been paid off, there are also other government facilities that may need rehabilitation.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

GUMA

From Page 1

2024 budget for the Judiciary, Manglona said the Retirement Fund loan has already been fully paid—as mentioned in their budget proposal and in their annual report.

Manglona said the fines and fees that were originally intended to pay off the loan now go directly to the Department of Finance's account.

"It doesn't rest with the court. So we are just a conduit, but I hope that they're still untouched because there's a specific law that says it's for the Judiciary," Manglona said.

Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) said it is their understanding that, upon the completion of that Retirement Fund loan payment, the Judiciary will be able to access those monies and portions of it will be distributed to the Department of Public Safety.

Manglona said the current statute does not have any language about DPS or Department of Corrections, and that it's just referred to as the Judiciary Building Fund.

Manglona said he believes they now have to shift the focus to the treatment courts facility as their current facilities and offices and treatment center cannot work in the Guma' Hustisia.

"So we are looking in that direction and use the fines and fees to focus on the treatment court center," said Manglona, adding that the center will house the mental health court, drug court, veterans court, and possibly the probation office.

In response to questions by Rep. Manny Gregory Castro (Ind-Saipan), director of Courts Sonia A. Camacho said fees collected from traffic citations go to an account held by the Finance secretary and that in the original bill for the Judicial Building

TORRES

From Page 1

going case against Torres.

According to the order, the high court found that Torres lacks standing to even challenge Kingman's admission to begin with.

"It is sound policy to permit opposing litigants to inform us of problems with a pro hac vice admission that were not visible on the face on the application. We reject contention that the motion to reconsider should be dismissed for lack of standing," states the order.

In addition, the court found no material deficiencies in the application that would warrant the revocation of Kingman's admission to practice pro hac vice in this case.

Back in March 2023, OAG chief solicitor J. Robert Glass Jr. applied for Kingman's pro hac vice admission to act as a special prosecutor in *CNMI v. Ralph Anthony Deleon Guerrero Torres*.

The application explained that Kingman "is a practitioner in Texas with a long history of prosecutorial experience, including public corruption and white-collar crime" and stated he would serve as a special prosecutor.

The application also contained Kingman's certificate of good standing in Texas and indicated that he would associate with the Office of the Attorney General as local counsel.

On March 6, the high court issued an order admitting Kingman pro hac vice.

Torres learned of the admission

through media reports and filed an Open Government Act request with the Office of the Attorney General for documents related to Kingman.

The OAG responded to Torres' request and made documents pertaining to Kingman's pro hac vice admission available for inspection.

On April 26, Torres filed a motion to reconsider the order, citing four grounds for revoking Kingman's admission: The Commonwealth did not serve Torres with a notice of the pro hac vice application; the application failed to articulate why the OAG requires the attorney's representation before Commonwealth courts; the application failed to comply with a sworn affidavit requirement; and pro hac vice was allegedly not the appropriate admissions rule for a special prosecutor in a criminal case.

KOREA

From Page 1

Committee hearing on MVA's proposed budget for 2024.

And if there is something the CNMI can do collectively to improve its tourism numbers, it is to improve what visitors see when they arrive and get off the plane, Concepcion said.

"Let's face it, many of our government buildings, private properties, our roads, our parks, our businesses, our villages, [and] our tourist sites are just not looking very attractive. Our islands look old and rundown," he said in his presentation, during which he also showed pictures to illustrate his point.

With respect to the Korea market, Concepcion said that before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, there were about 266,239 air seats from Korea in fiscal year 2019.

"...By the end of this fiscal year, we project to recover about 77% of those air seats. So about 205,309," he said.

For Japan, Concepcion said, they had 19 charter flights by Skymark Airlines in fiscal year 2019 and 118 regular flights for the first four months of fiscal year 2020.

For this fiscal year, they project 143 flights by United Airlines from Tokyo through the end of August 2023. He said they are in talks with United Airlines about continuing these flights beyond August.

As for the China market, Concepcion said, they have zero flights from China and no immediate plans to pursue that market, mainly due to geopolitical concerns and the CNMI government signaling it is pivoting

way from its reliance on this market. However, Concepcion said, they are starting to see a few visitors from China arriving via Korea and Japan.

MVA is also seeking federal funding to explore and open new source markets.

Among some of MVA's initiatives with Japan was a media familiarization tour last December for a TV golf program, *Swing Star in Saipan*. From January to April 2023, the show aired 10 episodes about the CNMI's golf courses and these generated an estimated \$27 million in advertising exposure value for the Marianas.

Concepcion said familiarization tours are a strategic investment for the MVA to provide a profitable return on investments. He said airlines and travel agencies are both essential partners in their marketing efforts.

Concepcion said their recent sales promotion with top travel agencies in Korea targeted specific niche markets like golf, families, honeymoon, and others. This promotion, he said, gained the CNMI over 17,000 new bookings.

The MVA official said their recent airline promotion with Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'way Air gained another 5,600 bookings.

As for Japan, Concepcion said the country has just started encouraging international travel last month. He said vaccinations and COVID test requirements for arriving passengers were just lifted in Japan last month.

"As you may know, many Japanese parents chose not to vaccinate their children, therefore they did not travel," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

WATER

From Page 3

■ Purpose: The scheduled water outage is necessary for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. water operators to repair a water mainline leak on Lalonghita Road between Half Flower Street and

Sour Plum Street in the Kagman 3 area.

■ Roadway(s) affected: For the safety of our crew, the southbound lane on Lalonghita Road between Half Flower Street and Sour Plum Street will be closed. Motorist are advised to use caution and slow down while driving in the area or to take alternative routes. (PR)



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Ex-parolee who threatened 2 others found guilty of assault

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former parolee who was arrested in November 2022 for allegedly assaulting a woman and threatening two others at knifepoint was found guilty Tuesday following a five-day bench trial at the Superior Court.

Superior Court associate judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio found Edward Blas guilty of two counts of assault and two counts of disturbing the peace in the November 2022 case where he assaulted a woman and threatened two other indi-

viduals at knifepoint.

“The court, having carefully considered the testimony of witnesses, and after hearing the arguments of counsel, find the evidence presented proof of guilt beyond reasonable doubt with respect to Count I: Assault, Count II: Disturbing the Peace, Count III: Assault, and Count IV: Disturbing the Peace,” the order stated.

The judge sentenced Blas to a suspended sentence of one year, with credit for the 220 days he has already served in prison. Blas will immediately be placed on supervised pro-

bation for one year.

Specifically, Blas was sentenced to an imprisonment term of six months for each of the two counts of assault, and another six months for each of the two counts of disturbing the peace which the judge ruled would run concurrently for a total imprisonment term of one year.

The government was represented by assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas during trial.

Blas appeared under the custody of the Department of Corrections and was represented by assistant public de-

fender Molly Dennert.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the complaint against Blas stated that he threatened to kill two people with a kitchen knife while intoxicated in November 2022, and he also punched his girlfriend. The girlfriend told police that Blas was mad because he could not find his slippers and that he stabbed a plastic table in anger.

Blas was serving a 24-year prison sentence after being convicted in 2011 for the brutal killing of an MHS security guard with two others as part of a plan to rob the school.

He became eligible for parole after serving one-third of his sentence. Blas, who was 16 at that time of the incident.

MPLT passes audit with flying colors

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Marianas Public Land Trust has received a good audit report from independent auditor Ernst & Young, which audited MPLT’s financial statements and the related notes to its financial statements for the year ended Sept. 30, 2022.

Ernst & Young, which was hired by the Office of the Public Auditor to do the audit on MPLT, issued its report last May 22, informing the MPLT board of trustees that they did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that they consider to be material weaknesses. However, the auditor said, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Under auditing standards, a material weakness refers to deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity’s financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and

corrected on a timely basis.

Ernst & Young said the results of their tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that have to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance whether the MPLT’s financial statements are free of material misstatement, Ernst & Young performed tests of compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements.

Ernst & Young found that MPLT’s combining statements of net position, or revenues, expenses and changes in net position and of cash flows, the schedules of investments—general fund and Park Fund and the schedule of administrative expenses compared to budget “are fairly stated, in all material aspect, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.”

Info session on DeafBlind Awareness Week activities

The Helen Keller National Center will be hosting an online Information Session for American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and Hawaii on Tuesday, June 27, from 10am to 11am (Chamorro Standard Time).

The information session will be focusing on DeafBlind Awareness Week activities. There are some exciting events being planned for this summer and fall.


■ Curious about what is happening for DeafBlind

Awareness Week?

■ Want to plan something in your community but don’t know where to start?

■ Want to join in and support an event in your state?

The information session is free but registration is required. The Zoom session will be open captioned and interpreter support will be provided. Use this link to sign up. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89418910156?pwd=c3NwKzU5RlVnelpCS0xCZlR2bFJHdz09> (PR)



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Eddie’s Fish Mart and Snack Bar

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Eddie’s Fish Mart and Snack Bar is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 72’ (L) x 43’6 (W) and to also construct an extension to the West Side of the property measuring 25’2 (L) x 12’ (W) for its “Restaurant, General” Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot NO. 002 F 19 in the village of San Jose. This area is zoned as Village Residential.


A public hearing will be held on:

Date: June 29, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, June 28, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Ma. Jyn & George Binghit

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Ma. Jyn & George Binghit are proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 30’5” (L) x 16’4” (W) x 11’10” (H) for its “General Wholesaling” Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 002 H 10 in the village of Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.


A public hearing will be held on:

Date: June 29, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, June 28, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Max Investments, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Max Investments, LLC is proposing to occupy Unit 1 on the ground floor of an existing 2-story commercial building measuring 30’6” (L) x 31’ (W) for its “Cannabis Retail” Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 008 D 11 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.


A public hearing will be held on:

Date: June 29, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, June 28, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Shalom Church

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Shalom Church is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 52’8” (L) x 42’1” (W) for its “Restaurant, General” Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. TR 21859-3-1 in the village of Fina Sisu. This area is zoned as Village Residential.


A public hearing will be held on:

Date: June 29, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, June 28, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Da Dankery

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Da Dankery is proposing to utilize Two (2) existing structures for its “Cannabis Farm” Use. Structure A measures 49’7” (W) x 26’2” (L) and Structure B measures 16’10” (L) x 24’10” (W). This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 044 K 07 in the village of Dandan. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: June 29, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, June 28, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman

LIBERATION DAY COMMITTEE PRESENTS

'Resiliency Rising' in LibDay parade, float competition

With the CNMI Liberation Day kicking off in less than three weeks, Saipan can expect to see the return of the Fourth of July parade and carnival grounds with the opening ceremony to be held at the Garapan Fishing Base on Saturday, July 1, 2023. To avoid competing events with Taste of the Marianas being held in June this year, the committee decided to host Liberation Day festivities from July 1 through July 22, 2023.

A number of organizations that previously expressed an interest in participating in this year's float competition have had to withdraw due to the diversion of Mawar response and recovery efforts on Rota and Guam. Many local businesses that have operations on Saipan have headquarter offices on Guam where facilities have yet to have power and water services restored. This includes our military brothers and sisters who had plans to fly to Saipan to take part in this year's parade.

Nonetheless, the Liberation Day Committee insists on moving forward with this year's Fourth of July Parade as it is one of the highlights our community looks forward to where many of our local families traditionally camp out by Beach Road, and make watching the parade a yearly family event. With the implementation of austerity measures, the committee foresees a longer celebration by Beach Road as this year's July 4 holiday falls the day after an austerity Monday.

The committee is calling out CNMI business, non-profit organizations, and elected officials on Capital Hill to compete in this year's Parade Float Competition. The committee challenges the Legislature to showcase the resiliency of their precincts on a float in this year's July Fourth Parade Category competition designed specifically for villages to show their pride and strength.

"We know times are hard, but your participation will not only uplift the Liberation festivities, but also provide an opportunity to engage directly with constituents and demonstrate your support for local initiatives," said Parade Committee chair Priscilla Iakopo.

This year's theme is "Resiliency Rising," a theme expected to highlight some of the CNMI's recovery efforts from some of the most challenging and catastrophic events in recent history: super typhoons Soudelor, Mangkhut, and Yutu, including the 2020 COVID-19 global pandemic.

The three competing float categories where one award winner will be chosen and



awarded the cash prize of \$4,000 each are: Best in Business, Best in Non-profit and

Best Precinct, the last of which the committee is extremely excited to see elected officials

and community members join. Parade float applications are ready for pickup at the Saipan

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Liberation Day Committee hosts a meeting with officials from the Marianas Regional Fusion Center Node and Department of Public Safety to discuss security and traffic control for this year's Liberation Day Parade route and festivities. In the photo are Liberation Day Committee chair Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero, DPS Lt. Pedro Aldan, DPS Lt. Roque Camacho, Mayor of Saipan director of Operations Jojo Attao, MOS chief of staff and LDC parade subcommittee chair Priscilla M. Iakopo, and Customs inspector Juan Inos.

Office of the Mayor and/or via download at the Saipan mayor's website at saipan-mayor.net. Interested applicants may also call (670) 234-6208 for more information. Deadline to submit Parade Float applications for consideration is Wednesday, June 21, 2023. (PR)



Commonwealth Zoning Board Public Hearing

June 29, 2023 | 2:00 PM

Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center
Susupe, Saipan



AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 06/29/23 Meeting Agenda
4. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-13864** – Da Dankery is proposing to utilize Two (2) existing structures for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. Structure A measures **49'7" (W) x 26'2" (L)** and Structure B measures **16'10" (L) x 24'10" (W)**. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 044 K 07 in the village of Dandan. This area is zoned as Rural.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-13865** – Shalom Church is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring **52'8" (L) x 42'1" (W)** for its "Restaurant, General" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. TR 21859-3-1 in the village of Fina Sisú. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-13866** – Max Investments, LLC is proposing to occupy Unit 1 on the ground floor of an existing 2-story commercial building measuring **30'6" (L) x 31' (W)** for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 008 D 11 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2023-0014** – Ma. Jyn & George Binghit are proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring **30'5" (L) x 16'4" (W) x 11'10" (H)** for its "General Wholesaling" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 002 H 10 in the village of Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-13867** – Eddie's Fish Mart and Snack Bar is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring **72' (L) x 43'6" (W)** and to also construct an extension to the West Side of the property measuring **25'2" (L) x 12' (W)** for its "Restaurant, General" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot NO. 002 F 19 in the village of San Jose. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
6. **Conditional Use Application #2020-13869** – Brenda B. Repeki is proposing to utilize a Cargo Container to construct a structure measuring **24' (L) x 12' (W) x 11'6" (H)** for its "Mobile Home" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 011 G 279 in the village of Kagman III. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
7. **Conditional Use Application #2023-0015** – Mariana Water Tour, Inc is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring **104' (L) x 45' (W)** for its "Gas Station, Light Repair" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 015 D 92 & 015 D 84 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

C. Adjournment

/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Mariana Water Tour, Inc.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mariana Water Tour, Inc is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 104' (L) x 45' (W) for its "Gas Station, Light Repair" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 015 D 92 & 015 D 84 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: June 29, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, June 28, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Brenda B. Repeki

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Brenda B. Repeki is proposing to utilize a Cargo Container to construct a structure measuring 24' (L) x 12' (W) x 11'6" (H) for its "Mobile Home" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 011 G 279 in the village of Kagman III. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: June 29, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, June 28, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 118Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

That increasingly crowded Republican primary field is looking eerily familiar

Then there were four. Wait, five. OK, six. The number of Republican politicians who have formally declared their candidacy to take on former President Donald Trump in 2024 has been growing almost by the day. That's a problem.

Trump's notable in-party opponents—that is, the ones who hold or have held significant elective office—include Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former Vice President Mike Pence, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

What's wrong with this picture? It's too big. By about five names. As New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu pointed out in an op-ed that ran in the Post-Dispatch opinion section last week, a wide, fractured field of candidates is the surest way for Trump to repeat his 2016 path to the nomination. That would be disastrous for the party and potentially catastrophic for America.

Whether because he's a potential convicted felon or a potential dictator, Trump belongs nowhere near the White House. Right now, he's polling at about 50% support among likely Republican primary voters, but the wider electorate holds a far dimmer view of him—to the point that Democrats might, as a matter of strategy, want him as their opponent in the general election next year.

But that's coming dangerously close to the White House lawn, especially against an octogenarian incumbent. The best thing for America would be Trump's defeat in the primaries, even if that works against the Democrats. A President DeSantis might sound problematic to many readers—it does to us—but it doesn't sound apocalyptic.

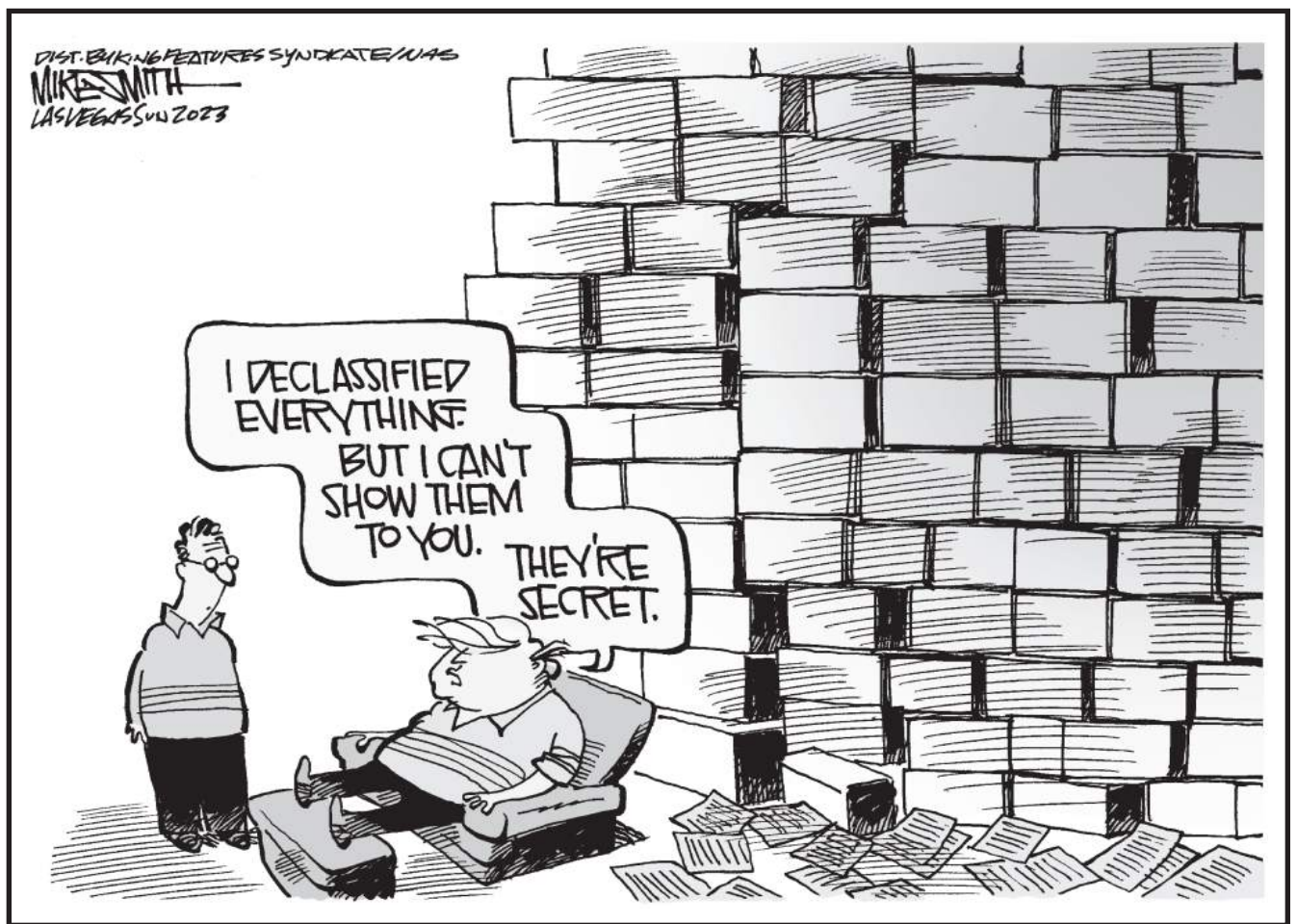
Trump's lead in the primary field may look daunting, but it's not necessarily insurmountable. Only one non-incumbent former president has ever won a subsequent term (Grover Cleveland, 1892), and while Trump's indictment last week could spawn some unpredictable reaction among Republican voters, it's difficult to believe it will be a sum positive.

So what's the best way to ensure Trump is stopped in the primaries? One theory, which could be summarized as the “death by a thousands cuts,” holds that the half-dozen notable opponents all aiming their knives at Trump would gradually erode his support.

Small problem: They would actually have to aim their knives, and among them, only Christie and Hutchinson seem willing (or, in Christie's case, salivating) to do that. Pence, despite having his life literally threatened by a mob Trump flung at him on Jan. 6, 2021, has said he would support Trump if he's the nominee. DeSantis—the only challenger who seems to have even a theoretical chance of catching Trump—leapt to his defense following last week's indictment, while Haley and Scott leaned in that direction.

“The stakes are too high for a crowded field to hand the nomination to a candidate who earns just 35 percent of the vote,” Sununu wrote last week. That's how Trump won the nomination in 2016. Any Republican candidate running against Trump who isn't willing to actually, y'know, run against Trump should get out.

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Brittney Griner discovers a love of country after her ordeal

Irish poet and playwright Oscar Wilde once wrote that “life imitates art far more often than art imitates life.” A perfect illustration of that aphorism is the story of WNBA star Brittney Griner, with its enriching theme about patriotism rediscovered.

In 2019, Griner, a seven-time WNBA All-Star and two-time Olympic gold medalist, made news when she ventured outside the sports pages and opined that the WNBA should stop playing the national anthem before games.

To highlight a veiled critique of America, she vowed not to leave the locker room when the anthem was being performed. In an interview with The Arizona Republic, she said, “I honestly feel we should not play the national anthem during our season. I think we should take that much of a stand.”

The story took an unexpected turn last year, when she was arrested at the Moscow airport for having a vape cartridge containing hashish oil in her luggage. After languishing for almost 10 months in a Russian prison, she was returned to the U.S. as part of a prisoner swap, controversial because she was traded for a notorious Russian arms dealer.

That is life; where is art?

While Griner was in the Russian prison, her plight resembled that of a fictional character, Philip Nolan, the protagonist of an 1863 short story by Edward Everett Hale, “The Man Without a Country.” In the story, which is an appeal for national unity during the Civil War, Nolan is an Army officer who becomes involved in an 1807 plot to overthrow the U.S. government. Captured, tried and convicted of treason, Nolan excoriates the assembled crowd in the courtroom before being sentenced, “Damn the United States! I wish I may never hear of her again!”

The judge takes Nolan at his word, literally, and sentences him to spend the rest of his life aboard Navy warships, banning him from ever setting foot in the country again. The crew of every ship Nolan shuttles between is ordered not to mention the United States to him and to cut out every article about America in the newspapers and books provided to him. Each time he inquires about the United States, the men on the ship must remain silent.

For the next 55 years, Nolan is a man without a country, something akin to Griner's situation before the prisoner swap saved her from a nine-year sentence in a tiny, miserable Russian cell.

“The Man Without a Country” ends with Nolan in his bed dying after more than five decades at sea, realizing the full measure of what he has lost. He begs the final officer overseeing his captivity to describe America. The officer takes pity on Nolan and recounts the history of America for the decades that Nolan missed. (The officer emphasizes the emancipation of enslaved people but compassionately omits the details of the Civil War, not wishing to rekindle memories of treason in the dying man.)

By **CORY FRANKLIN**
Chicago Tribune

Dr. Cory Franklin is a retired intensive care physician.



After hearing about the America he never knew, Nolan surprises the officer by opening a trunk with a shrine he has created to the United States in his room over the years. It includes a flag, a picture of George Washington, a bald eagle and an old map of the United States, showing former territories that, unbeknown to him, had become states.

He tells the officer that yes, he does have a country and shows him a prayer book that U.S. authorities neglected to confiscate long ago. It contains a remorseful prayer that Nolan wrote for America. After Nolan's death, the officer discovers the prisoner's personal epitaph:

“In memory of Philip Nolan, Lieutenant in the Army of the United States. He loved his country as no other man has loved her; but no man deserved less at her hands.”

Like the fictional Nolan, Griner has had her own Pauline conversion, with a renewed appreciation for her native land since returning.

At the start of the latest WNBA season, the basketball star, who previously remained in the locker room during the national anthem, now stands proudly on the court for the anthem amid cheers from the crowd and her fellow players.

“Just being able to hear my national anthem, see my flag, I definitely want to stand. Now everybody that will not stand or not come out, I totally support them 100%. That's our right, as an American in this great country,” Griner said.

In addition, she has taken up the plight of Americans imprisoned in other countries, as well as publicly advocating for fairer salaries and better travel conditions for female athletes.

Through her ordeal, Griner has become a patriot—in the finest sense of the word. Good for her and good for us—a nice coda. Hers should be an inspirational lesson in patriotism for American children. (We might also consider restoring “The Man Without a Country” to school reading lists.)

As folk singer Joni Mitchell asked in one of her most famous songs, “Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone?”

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

After the Ukraine dam disaster, NATO must make Putin pay for his war crimes

When Ukraine's U.N. ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya addressed a special Security Council session on Tuesday about the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka dam, he confronted his Russian counterpart as "the representative of Putin's terrorist regime...that has detonated a bomb of mass environmental destruction."

That says it all.

Who can doubt that it was Moscow that unleashed the largest man-made disaster in Europe since the 1986 nuclear meltdown in Chernobyl? But Chernobyl—another Russian desecration of Ukrainian soil—was caused by Soviet incompetence. This massive ecological crime was deliberate.

By destroying the dam, Vladimir Putin meant to impede Ukraine's counteroffensive to drive Russia out of occupied Ukrainian territory, a critical undertaking which has just gotten started.

He must not be allowed to succeed.

Ukrainian forces will now be unable to cross the flooded Dni-pro River with armored vehicles in coming weeks (although this approach had not been likely) since the land on both sides has been turned into rivulets and soggy mush.

Ukrainian governmental attention, and the focus of its allies, will be taken up with a massive rescue operation, and resettling of more refugees, lessening the focus on the military front.

No doubt Russia also hopes the prospect of enormous economic and environmental damage, caused by the dam's collapse, will undermine Ukrainian morale—and weaken the will of its supporters.

NATO allies must make immediately clear that this is not the case.

Yes, the U.S. is reportedly still combing the intelligence to clearly determine if Russia is to blame for the dam's destruction.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist, however, to note that the Russians have been in total control of the dam and the entire hydroelectric facility for more than a year. As Kyslytsya noted: "It is physically impossible to blow it up somehow from the outside by shelling. It was mined by the Russian occupiers. And they blew it up." Experts also believe the explosion had to come from inside.

Late last year, the Kremlin was testing the international appetite to swallow its lies if Russia destroyed the dam. At the United

Nations in October, Russia falsely claimed Ukraine was about to blow up the structure and blame Moscow.

In October, Russia hesitated. But now—fearful of the Ukrainian counteroffensive—officials in Moscow have done what they earlier threatened, even though they are trying to obscure the deed with propaganda.

This is the common Kremlin modus operandi: Blame the victim for your crimes. Just as they claimed that it was Ukraine that destroyed Mariupol or left corpses strewn on the streets of Bucha. Just as they claim they never target civilians, when they have systematically targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Just as they still claim their invasion is a "special military operation" aimed to eliminate "Ukrainian Nazis."

Russian propaganda turns reality upside down. For a reality check, you need only to listen to the "experts" on state-controlled Russian television talk shows. You will hear Nazi-like genocidal propaganda as they rejoice over the dam's destruction.

One such "expert", Alexey Anpilov, has been calling for months for Russia's destruction of Ukraine's dams, insisting, in September 2022, that: "Our victory depends on how fast we can destroy their critical infrastructure...the power plants, the dams, the railways." Now he blames Ukraine for destroying the Nova Kakhovka dam.

Thanks to the journalist Julia Davis who posts and translates clips from those talk shows on Twitter at @JuliaDavisNews, anyone with a strong stomach can listen to the vitriol. One of her latest: State Duma member Alexei Zhuravlyov, discussing how the dam's demise benefited Russia. (He grinned knowingly even as he accused Ukraine of the crime.)

"There are no problems for our army there," Zhuravlyov explained frankly. "Now it's impossible for [the Ukrainians] to get across [the flooding Dni-pro River]." Then he compared Ukrainians to roaches who must be "squashed" and proposed that Ukrainian land be distributed to Russia's soldier "heroes."

Listen to this slime and you understand the depth of Moscow's visceral desire to destroy a Ukraine that won't bow to imperial rule.

It was especially vicious that this war crime occurred on June 6,

By **TRUDY RUBIN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer



Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member of the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.

the 79th anniversary of the D-Day invasion that marked the beginning of Nazi Germany's downfall. No doubt Putin got perverse pleasure out of twisting this historic day into his ugly narrative claiming Ukrainians are the Nazis. The destroyed dam shows, once again, that it is Russia now playing that genocidal role.

So it is critical that the United States quickly assemble and declassify intelligence that points the finger directly at the Russian perpetrator—and lay it out at the U.N. Security Council. Moscow must not be allowed to muddy its responsibility for this war crime—whose lasting ecological damage will also affect Europe.

It is also crucial that NATO countries make clear to Moscow that if any similar disaster occurs at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, upstream from the dam and also occupied by Russia, the blame will be placed squarely on the Kremlin.

U.N. and Ukrainian experts say the dam's collapse does not pose an immediate threat to the plant's safety but will have a long term impact. The Russians have frequently issued threats about the plant, even as they militarized it and refused U.N. pleas to turn it into a demilitarized zone.

Most essential, the West must offset Russia's ecological bomb, not only with immediate aid to address the calamity, but with the specific military systems Ukraine needs to succeed in the counteroffensive. More air defenses, long range missiles, F-16s, everything needed to show that Putin's war crimes will not go unpunished.

And finally, the July NATO summit in Vilnius, Estonia, must offer Ukraine a path to enter the coalition and security guarantees until that happens.

Putin's latest war crime has shown why, for the safety of Europe and our own country, Russia's vile president can't be allowed to succeed.

Berlusconi wrote the playbook for the modern strongman

Before there was Donald Trump, before Viktor Orban, before Boris Johnson, there was Silvio Berlusconi.

The billionaire media tycoon, who died Monday at the age of 86, turned his celebrity into a magnet for Italy's forgotten everyman, gaining four stints as prime minister and forging an enduring political influence. A former cruise-ship crooner, he wrote the cheat sheet for the populism that today challenges liberal democracies worldwide. From his taut, perm-tanned appearance, to his mockery of women, his railing against immigrants, his abuse of political power to further his personal business dealings and his confrontation with the courts, Berlusconi was the very model of the modern right-wing strongman.

Berlusconi rose to power in the last two decades of the 20th century when television was the dominant medium. His ownership of the country's first privately owned network allowed him to bombard Italians with his message, laying the groundwork for politics in the age of Twitter and Instagram. His business empire also comprised a newspaper, magazines, a radio station, publishing house and a soccer team. During his nine years at Palazzo Chigi—the most of any postwar premier—he had control of state TV too.

Berlusconi launched his political career when his connections lost their influence in a vast bribery scandal that razed Italy's postwar governing class. He decided he needed to shift lanes. He wasn't wedded to policies or ideology. Private polling he did at the time showed him he would be more likely to win campaigning to the right, even though he'd previously been associated with socialists.

One veteran bank boss told me of a 1994 dinner convened by Berlusconi to inform Italy's top business leaders about his imminent political run. My source, who was at the event, said the guests expressed astonishment at the intended

change of political affiliation. "It doesn't matter what party I am so long as I win," Berlusconi replied.

Berlusconi's playbook included ridiculing institutions from the central bank to the judiciary. Accusations that he bribed judges, cheated on his taxes and paid underage women for sex—his infamous "Bunga Bunga" parties made international headlines—helped boost his popularity among Italians who distrusted elites. His shamelessness was a model for the likes of Trump and Johnson.

Ultimately, Berlusconi was involved in more than two dozen criminal court cases during his political career. They involved allegations of vote buying, sex with underage women, tax evasion, lying under oath, bribery and wiretapping. But he was definitively found guilty of just one charge: tax fraud. He evaded conviction in the others following lengthy appeals, legal changes or expiring statutes of limitations. He has always claimed he was the innocent subject of a witch hunt by the judiciary.

Crucially, too, what eventually drove Berlusconi from office was not political opposition—and his own peccadillo—but the markets. He was forced out in the fall of 2011 during the European debt crisis as Italy risked default. As the economy wobbled, he had insisted all was fine because all the restaurants of Italy were full.

There is no doubt his legacy is one of decline. Berlusconi's overwhelming desire to be loved meant he failed to use his popularity in his years of power to make the tough structural reforms that Italy needed. Entrenched corruption only deepened, and the economy stagnated. Italy remains low-ranked in global categories of business starts, foreign direct investment and the quality of schools. As bad, the lasting damage he inflicted came in the way he celebrated and normalized the flouting of rules.

Meantime, the media empire he built also dwindled. Used to

By **RACHEL SANDERSON**

Bloomberg Opinion



having competition bent in its favor in Italy, Mediaset Italia SpA failed to adapt to the streaming age. Expectations are now high among bankers in Milan that his heirs will end up selling it.

Yet even in his ninth decade, he kept himself, at least, politically relevant.

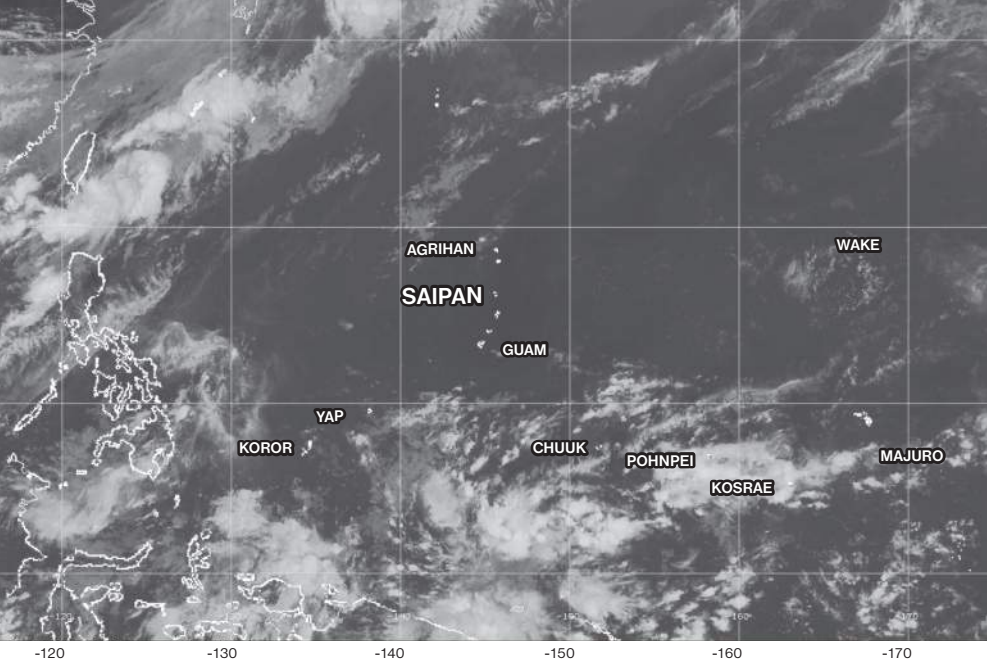
The war in Ukraine served as a reminder of his two-decade long friendship with Vladimir Putin. The pair holidayed together, going so far as wearing identical bearskin hats in one media appearance. Berlusconi repeatedly embarrassed Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and coalition partners, claiming Putin was pushed into the war in Ukraine because he wanted to put "decent people" in charge in Kyiv.

Still, Berlusconi paved the way for the hard right to come to power, first by bringing the anti-immigrant League into the mainstream, and then by facilitating the rise of Meloni, having made her youth minister in his last government.

Illiberalism is still gathering momentum across Europe, from Italy and Spain, to Poland and Hungary. And European elections next year may yet reveal the full reach of Berlusconi.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:13 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows mostly sunny skies and only a few showers. The Ipan buoy reveals an east trade-wind swell of 4 to 5 feet. Adding in a residual west swell and wind waves won` t change that much, so it looks like 4 to 5 feet it is.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:07 AM	4:11 PM	-
Friday	3:50 AM	5:07 PM	-
Saturday	4:36 AM	6:03 PM	-
Sunday	5:26 AM	6:59 PM	-
Monday	6:18 AM	7:52 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	58° / 51°	
Beijing	Sunny	102° / 71°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 74°	
London	Partly Cloudy	80° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Cloudy	71° / 61°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°	
Melbourne	Showers	58° / 51°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
New York	Thunderstorms	73° / 61°	
Osaka	Showers	78° / 69°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	83° / 61°	
Busan	Thunderstorms	74° / 65°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	80° / 62°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	81° / 65°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 55°	
Seoul	Showers	83° / 64°	
Tokyo	Showers	79° / 68°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	80° / 59°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:40 AM	High Tide	2.14	
12:07 PM	Low Tide	0.08	
7:06 PM	High Tide	1.87	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA156	6:55PM	7:40PM	1, 4 effective June 5	UA112	5:00PM	5:50PM	1, 4 effective June 5
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Business

Top Construction Group celebrates 65 years of doing business in Micronesia

Black Construction Corp. is celebrating its 65th Anniversary of doing business in the islands of Micronesia, and beyond.

Black Construction has a history of working on prestigious projects in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia. These include military construction projects and notable work in the communities of the islands.

Among recent and special projects Black Construction has completed to the satisfaction of its clients the \$130-million third-floor terminal building and structural upgrade at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport, Guam, which added a third-floor arrivals corridor. The ribbon cutting took place on Jan. 21, 2022.

Black Micro Corp., the subsidiary of Black Construction Corporation in the Northern Mariana Islands, was awarded in April 2023 a \$221.69-million contract for the second



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Black Construction Corp.'s Senior Management Team leads a group of more than 1,000 employees. They are, from left, Donald J. McCann, vice president of operations; Mark J. Mamczarz, vice president of finance, secretary and treasurer; Leonard K. Kaae Sr., senior vice president and general manager; John M. McSweeney, vice president of estimating and business development; and Dean E. Bates, vice president of engineering.

phase of the divert airfield at Tinian International Airport—the largest award to Black Construction to date.

Black was also awarded the \$161.82 million first phase of the divert airfield.

In May 2003, Black Micro Corporation completed construction of the \$23.3 million Palau National Capital Relocation Project – Phase II, a unique project in Melekeok State on the island of Babeldaob, on behalf of the Republic of Palau.

One of the group's significant utility-related projects in 1998 was the Nanpil hydro-power plant dam and headworks in Pohnpei.

Leonard K. Kaae Sr., executive vice president and general manager of Black Construction Corporation, said, "On behalf of the management team and Black Construction's employee team of more than 1,000 skilled construction professionals, we have much

to be proud of on the 65th Anniversary of Black Construction Corporation. We are the largest construction group in the region and this year secured the largest award in the company's history to date—the Tinian International Divert Airfield project.

"We thank our parent company—Tutor Perini Corp.—for their leadership and support, and also want to recognize our numerous partners—to include the U.S. Department of Defense and sub-contractors in the islands – all of whom have contributed to our success. I would also like to thank the islands and their leaderships that have welcomed and allowed us to contribute to their communities in so many ways.

"Most of all, I would like to thank my colleagues—



The A.B. Won Pat International Airport, Guam's third floor arrival corridor and terminal project.



The Tinian International Airport Divert Airfield.

each and every one of the members of the Black Family—who work so tirelessly towards our success."

Black Construction Corp. was founded by Everett Earl Black in 1926, with the intent of ultimately expanding to operate in the Trust Territories of Micronesia, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland. In 1959, the Black Companies of Honolulu began construction of the 1050 Capehart Housing at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, its first move into the Western Pacific.

Since then, Black Construction has been awarded prestigious projects throughout Micronesia and beyond.

These vary from sophisticated work at U.S. military locations, to essential projects on utilities and unique private sector facilities.

Its affiliates are Black Micro Corporation, E.E. Black Limited and the Black Construction/Mace International Joint Venture in Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

Black Construction Corp. has been awarded a record seven Eagle awards for Excellence in Construction by the Associated Builders and Contractors. The group has been recognized numerous times by the Guam Contractors Association for its construction, as well as safety in the workplace. **(PR)**

Starbucks denies claims it's banning Pride displays but union organizers are skeptical

By **DEE-ANN DURBIN**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Starbucks is denying union organizers' claims that it is banning Pride displays in its U.S. stores in the wake of Target and other brands experiencing a backlash.

But Starbucks Workers United, the union organizing U.S. Starbucks stores, says store managers around the country have been curtailing or removing displays during a monthlong celebration of LG-BTQ+ people. In some cases, the union said, managers told workers that Pride displays were a safety concern, citing recent incidents at Target where some angry customers tipped over merchandise and confronted workers.

"There has been no change to any policy on this matter and we continue to encourage our store leaders to celebrate with their communities, including for U.S. Pride month in June," the Seattle coffee giant said Tuesday in a statement.

Starbucks has been outspoken in its support for LG-BTQ+ employees for decades and said Tuesday that support is "unwavering." It extended full health benefits to same-sex partners in 1988 and added health coverage for gender reassignment surgery in 2013.

The company is also currently selling Pride-themed tumblers in its stores designed by Toronto artist Tim Singleton, who is gay.

But Ian Miller, a union organizer and Starbucks supervisor in Olney, Maryland, said the company's tone has changed this year, citing his own store manager informing him that he needed prior approval to put up Pride decorations and that the company was seeking more "uniformity" in its stores.

The manager also allegedly cited the backlash against Bud Light when it partnered with a transgender influencer and then tried to walk back its support. Its U.S. sales subsequently plummeted.

Miller said the manager ultimately let an employee put up small rainbow flags in the store, but the company credit card wasn't used to buy them, as had been allowed in the past.

"It's disrespectful and counterintuitive," Miller said.

Miller's manager declined to comment Tuesday when contacted by The Associated Press. Starbucks didn't respond to questions about the policies at Miller's store.

Miller's store is one of more than 300 Starbucks stores that has voted to unionize since 2021. Starbucks opposes the unionization effort.

Toyota shareholders reject proposal demanding better performance on climate change

TOYOTA, Japan (AP)—Toyota executives fielded challenges and reaped praise from investors at an annual general meeting Wednesday where shareholders ultimately rejected demands the automaker do better on fighting climate change.

The investor proposal was initiated by AkademikerPension, a \$20 billion Danish investment fund. It accused Toyota Motor Corp. of lobbying to weaken efforts by governments around the world to phase out the internal combustion engine.

Shareholders applauded in rejecting the proposal, as expected, at the meeting in Toyota city, central Japan.

The majority of Toyota shares are held by the company and its group companies, retired employees and others sympathetic to the company's perspective.

The shareholders' proposal challenged the reappointment of Toyota's chairman, Akio Toyoda, grandson of the company founder and a board director, arguing the company has lagged in keeping up with the global shift to battery electric vehicles.

Toyoda and other company officials defended their green record, noting Toyota is aiming for carbon neutrality, or net-zero carbon emissions, in its lineup by 2050.

The resolution filed by the

Danish fund was also supported by Norwegian financial services company Storebrand Asset Management and a Dutch pension investment company, APG Asset Management.

"From an investment perspective, we're concerned that Toyota is missing out on profits from soaring EV sales, jeopardizing its valuable brand and cementing its global laggard status," Anders Schelde, CIO at the Danish fund, said in a statement ahead of the meeting.

Others behind the proposal said Toyota needs to live up to its commitment to the Paris Agreement, an international treaty to reduce green-

house emissions.

"Toyota plays a pivotal role in the Japanese automotive related industry, which leads the country's manufacturing and economy," said Herman Slooijer, CIO a APG Asset Management.

Toyota officials stressed that instead of just focusing on battery electric vehicles the company was pursuing "multi pathways," or various energy options, including hybrids, plug-ins and hydrogen-powered vehicles.

"Various options need to be readied," said Masahiro Yamamoto, one of the executives. "What is important is to better convey our efforts to all shareholders."

Nation

In court, Trump faced charges with no cameras present

» Outside, he campaigned for all to see

MIAMI (AP)—Former President Donald Trump gave a wave and a thumbs-up to crowds outside the federal courthouse in downtown Miami after pleading not guilty to criminal charges. He then headed to a Cuban restaurant where he warmly greeted waiting supporters in a camera-ready scene that resembled a campaign stop, and later he railed against the charges before a friendly crowd of invited guests at a private golf club he owns.

In the largely unseen moments Tuesday — his attorney entering his plea, Trump sitting grim-faced with arms folded across his chest — the gravity of being the first former president charged with a federal crime was apparent.

In the seen moments, broadcast around the world in real time, there were a long motorcade, flag-waving supporters and a smaller number of anti-Trump protesters outside the courthouse. Then the for-



AP
Former President Donald Trump prays with pastor Mario Bramnick, third from right, and others at Versailles restaurant on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, in Miami.

mer president and 2024 candidate had a detour in mind, to a popular restaurant where he was all smiles, greeted by supporters, prayed over by a rabbi and shadowed by his personal aide, who also has

been charged in the case.

Then Trump flew on his private jet to New Jersey, where backers welcomed him with rally-like enthusiasm, music and chants for a speech delivered before a clubhouse with

columns resembling the White House. The remarks, with live coverage only from his favored cable channel, were rife with errors and falsehoods that went unchallenged in the moment.

Trump has long been adroit at creating his own portrait of events, ever mindful of the

power of television to shape an impression even as his actions have strained the safeguards of American democracy. The post-court itinerary was an orchestrated effort at counter-programming as he campaigns again for president and maintains that he has been unfairly

targeted by political rivals.

The international attention and the screaming crowds were more signs of the extraordinary nature of the day's events and the person at the center of it all. A defendant like no other, Trump was the first former president to appear before a federal judge on criminal charges. He also is leading the Republican field for the 2024 presidential nomination, holding his status as frontrunner even as he has faced these and other legal troubles.

Hardly any of those gathered in Miami interacted with Trump, if they saw him at all through the window of his SUV. He arrived as part of a motorcade that entered the courthouse garage for his hearing on felony charges. The former president also left in the SUV with the windows rolled up before heading to Versailles, a restaurant, coffee shop and bakery that is a required stop for politicians visiting Miami. There, the crowd serenaded him with the "Happy Birthday" song, one day before the former president's 77th birthday.

"Some birthday! We've got a government that's out of control," Trump said.

Teacher shot by 6-year-old student in Virginia resigns

By BEN FINLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The first-grade teacher who was shot by her 6-year-old student in Virginia has resigned from her position, school officials said Tuesday, more than two months after she sued the district for \$40 million.

The last day of Abby Zwerner's contract was Monday, Newport News Public Schools said in a statement. The district said that Zwerner notified human resources in March that she wouldn't be returning next school year.

Zwerner, 25, was shot in the hand and chest as she sat at a reading table in her first-grade classroom on Jan. 6. She spent nearly two weeks in the hospital, has endured multiple surgeries and told NBC that she sometimes "can't get up out of bed."

Zwerner filed her lawsuit in early April, alleging that school officials ignored multiple warnings that the boy had a gun and was in a violent mood that day. The school board has pushed back, asking a judge to dismiss the case and arguing that Zwerner should get workers compensation instead.

WAVY-TV first reported that Zwerner no longer worked for the district on Tuesday. In an interview with the station, an attorney for Zwerner characterized her departure as a firing.

Lawyer Jeffrey Breit cited an email that school officials sent Zwerner in May, stating they had "processed a separation of employment for you effective the close of business 06/12/2023."

Breit told WAVY: "I don't think you can read this any other way than you've been fired. And that's what she thinks. She doesn't understand it; there's no other communication."

Newport News Public Schools refuted Breit's claim in a statement Tuesday.

"Every employee who is separating from the school division receives a similar communication," the district said.

The school system also provided emails between the district and Zwerner in which the teacher wrote: "I wish to resign. Thank you."

Breit did not respond to an email and a phone call from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Zwerner's resignation is yet another development in the aftermath of the shooting, which has reverberated through the shipbuilding city of about 180,000 people near the Atlantic coast.

The boy who shot Zwerner had used his mother's gun. His mother, Deja Taylor, pleaded guilty Monday in federal court to using marijuana while owning a firearm, which is illegal

under U.S. law.

Taylor is facing charges on the state level of felony child neglect and reckless storage of a firearm. A trial for those counts is set for August.

Meanwhile, Zwerner's \$40 million lawsuit is pending.

Zwerner's attorneys have said school officials knew the boy "had a history of random violence" at school and at home, including an episode the year before in which he "strangled and choked" his kindergarten teacher.

"Teachers' concerns with John Doe's behavior (were) regularly brought to the attention of Richneck Elementary School administration, and the concerns were always dismissed," the lawsuit states.

In asking a judge to dismiss the case, the school board has argued that Zwerner's injuries fall under the state's workers compensation act.

The school board rejected Zwerner's claim that she could reasonably expect to work with young children who pose no danger, pointing to numerous incidents of violence against teachers across the U.S. and in Newport News.

"While in an ideal world, young children would not pose any danger to others, including their teachers, this is sadly not reality," the board stated.

ACROSS THE NATION

Biden celebrates Juneteenth, the newest federal holiday, at the White House

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden hosted a massive concert on the South Lawn of the White House to commemorate Juneteenth, the country's newest federal holiday which the president said will "breathe a new life in the very essence of America." "To me, making Juneteenth a federal holiday wasn't just a symbolic gesture. It was a statement of fact for this country to acknowledge the origin of the original sin of slavery, to understand the war was never fought over it, it wasn't just about a union, but it was most fundamentally about the country and freedom." Vice President Kamala Harris said Juneteenth is an occasion to "honor Black excellence, culture and community." "America is a promise — a promise of freedom, liberty and justice," Harris said. "The story of Juneteenth as we celebrate it is a story of our ongoing fight to realize that promise. Not for some, but all." The concert also commemorated Black Music Month, and featured artists such as Tony Award winner Audra McDon-

ald and singer and talk show host Jennifer Hudson.

LA councilman charged with 10 counts, including embezzlement, perjury

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors charged a Los Angeles city councilman with 10 counts, including embezzlement and perjury, Tuesday in the latest criminal case to upend the scandal-plagued governing board of the nation's second-largest city. Current Price Jr. faces five counts of embezzlement of government funds, three counts of perjury and two counts of conflict of interest, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. Price was charged for having a financial interest in projects that he voted on as a council member, and having the city pay nearly \$34,000 in medical benefits for his now-wife while he was still married to another woman, Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón said in a statement. Between 2019 and 2021, Price's wife allegedly received payments totaling more than \$150,000 from developers before Price voted to approve projects, according to Gascón's statement. He also is accused of

failing to list the money his wife received on government disclosure forms.

Tour boat capsized in underground cave wasn't 1st, agency says

Soon after a tour boat flipped over during a tour of a dimly lit cavern system, leaving one passenger dead, members of another group recalled a similar experience while taking the same tour eight years ago and questioned whether anything had been done since then to make the attraction safer. News of the 2015 capsizing emerged as the investigation into Monday's accident continued—and a passenger who survived the most recent ordeal recounted how he fought to breathe under the upside down craft. The flat-bottomed boat carrying local hospitality workers capsized during a tour of a historic underground water tunnel off the Erie Canal in the western New York city of Lockport. Eight years earlier, clients and staff of the former Baker Victory Services ended up in the water when their boat also flipped, said John Pitts, spokesman for the agency, which has since been renamed OLV Human Services. (AP)

Asia

WH national security sent to Tokyo for talks with Japan, PH, S. Korea officials

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden is dispatching White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan to Tokyo this week for talks with his counterparts from Japan, Philippines and South Korea.

Sullivan will also take part in “the first-ever trilateral meeting of the Japanese, Philippine, and U.S. national security advisers” while in Japan, the White House National Security Council said in a statement Tuesday.

The White House offered scant details about Sullivan’s two-day visit that begins Thursday, saying Sullivan and his counterparts “will discuss ways to deepen collaboration on a number of key regional and global issues.”

Sullivan’s visit comes after U.S., Japanese and Philippine coast guard ships staged law enforcement drills in waters near the disputed South China Sea earlier this month. Washington has stepped up efforts to reinforce alliances in Asia amid an increasingly tense rivalry with China.

Washington lays no claims to the strategic South China Sea, where China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysian,

Taiwan and Brunei have been locked in tense territorial stand-offs for decades. But the U.S. says freedom of navigation and overflight and the peaceful resolution of disputes in the busy waterway are in its national interest.

The White House confirmed Sullivan’s travels after Biden during a reception at the White House for U.S. chiefs of diplomatic missions on Tuesday made an off-hand remark that Ambassador Rahm Emanuel, the U.S. envoy to Japan, was not on hand because he was getting ready for Sullivan’s visit.

U.S.-China relations have been strained throughout Biden’s tenure. China launched military exercises last year around Taiwan after then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., visited the democratically governed island that China claims as its own.

Relations became further strained early this year after the U.S. shot down a Chinese spy balloon that had crossed the United States. Beijing also was angered by Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen’s stopover in the U.S. in April that included an engagement with House Speaker Kevin

McCarthy, R-Calif.

And on Saturday, the White House confirmed that China has been operating a spy base in Cuba for sometime and that it was upgraded in 2019 under the Trump administration’s watch.

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby on Monday said that the Trump administration had the “same access” to intelligence about China’s spying operations as the Biden administration did.

Former Trump administration officials, including former Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe and national security adviser John Bolton, have pushed back against the assertion that the Cuba spy base was upgraded under their watch.

“The (Biden) administration claims that the base was there in 2019 if not before, all I can say is I was in the White House for part of 2019 I was certainly unaware of it,” former Trump-era national security adviser John Bolton said in an interview on Tuesday with SiriusXM’s POTUS channel. “I think I would have remembered it if it crossed my desk.”

PH villagers flee ashfall, sight of red-hot lava from erupting Mayon Volcano

SANTO DOMINGO, Philippines (AP)—Truckloads of villagers on Tuesday fled Philippine communities close to the erupting Mayon Volcano, traumatized by the sight of red-hot lava flowing down its crater and fearful of sporadic blasts of ash.

Nearly 15,000 people have left the mostly poor farming communities within a 6-kilometer (3.7-mile) radius of Mayon’s crater in northeastern Albay province in forced evacuations since volcanic activity spiked last week. Albay’s governor extended the danger zone by a kilometer (more than half a mile) on Monday and asked thousands of residents to be ready to move anytime.

But many opted to flee from the expanded danger zone even before the mandatory evacuation order.

“There’s lava and ashfall already,” Fidel Banzuela, 61, said from a navy truck where she, her daughter, grandchildren and neighbors clambered up after leaving their home in San Fernando village close to

Mayon. “If the volcano explodes, we won’t see anything because it would be so dark.”

Her daughter, Sarah Banzuela, fled with her two children, including a 2-year-old who has asthma, which she said could be triggered back by volcanic ash that rained down on their village over the weekend.

“There’s ashfall already and, at night, there’s red-hot lava from the volcano that seems to be moving closer to us,” Sarah Banzuela, 22, told The Associated Press. She and her mother arrived at a grade school turned into an evacuation center teeming with other displaced villagers.

After days of showing signs of renewed restiveness, including a swarm of rockfalls and a bright-orange crater glow visible at night, Mayon began expelling lava Sunday night, which flowed slowly down two gulleys on its southeastern slope, government volcano experts said.

An ash plume that shot up to 328 feet (100 meters) at dawn on Tuesday drifted southeast-

ward with the wind toward some villages, said Teresito Bacolcol, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

An AP video showed a boulder getting ripped from the side of a dome of lava in Mayon’s crater then plunging and breaking into smaller red-hot pieces as it rolled down and smashed onto other stones on the volcano’s steep slope.

The 2,462-meter (8,077-foot) Mayon is a top tourist draw in the Philippines because of its picturesque conical shape but is the most active of 24 known volcanoes in the archipelago. It last erupted violently in 2018, displacing tens of thousands. In 1814, Mayon’s eruption buried entire villages and left more than 1,000 people dead.

With its peak often shrouded by wisps of passing clouds, Mayon appeared calm on Tuesday, but Bacolcol told AP that lava was continuing to flow slowly down its slopes but could not easily be seen under the bright sun.

World

TO BLOCK ATTACKS ON BORDER REGIONS

Putin threatens to seize more of Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested Tuesday that he could order his troops to try to seize more land in Ukraine to protect bordering Russian territory — a threat with questionable credibility because the Kremlin lacks full control over areas it already annexed.

In some of his most detailed remarks about the war in months, the Russian leader also asserted that Ukrainian forces had suffered “catastrophic” losses in a new counteroffensive, and he said he was not contemplating a new troop mobilization, as many Russians have feared. But he did not rule out another troop call-up later. And he reiterated Russia’s claim that Ukraine was responsible for blowing up a Dnieper River dam that caused vast flooding on both sides of the front line last week in the country’s south.

Putin’s comments at an open meeting with military journalists and bloggers followed Kyiv’s claims that Ukrainian troops had captured a handful of villages in the early stages of the counteroffensive as they seek to push Russian troops out of four regions of Ukraine the Kremlin illegally annexed last fall. The meeting, which lasted more than two hours, came after Russian missile strikes in central Ukraine killed at least 11 people overnight.

Putin said Ukraine’s counteroffensive has been unsuccessful. He asserted that Ukraine lost 160 tanks and over 360 other armored vehicles, while Russia lost 54 tanks since the new assault began. Those claims could not be immediately verified. Ukrainian officials typically do not comment on losses.

The White House offered no immediate reaction to Putin’s claims.

A U.S. official familiar with American intelligence said Putin’s comments were “not accurate” and cautioned against putting any stock in Russia’s public assessments. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to offer an internal assessment, did not detail how Putin’s claims were misleading.

Referring to alleged Ukrainian incursions into Russia and shelling of border regions, Putin said he was considering whether “to create on Ukrainian territory a kind of sanitary zone at such a distance from which



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, speaks during a meeting with Russian war correspondents who cover a special military operation at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

it would be impossible to get our territory.”

It was not clear whether Russia — which failed to capture Kyiv and its surroundings early in the war and later had to give up other territory it had captured, even in annexed areas — could afford to risk expanding its gains in Ukraine while trying to repel the evolving counteroffensive in several sectors of the more than 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line.

In recent weeks, Russia’s border areas have come under increasing attack, with the Kremlin blaming Ukrainian forces for incursions of fighters and drone strikes.

Ukrainian authorities have not confirmed Kyiv’s involvement in the attacks but have obliquely welcomed them. Russian volunteer units sympathizing with Ukraine have claimed responsibility for the incursions.

Local leaders in Russia have pleaded with the Kremlin to do more to protect residents, some of whom have been evacuated to safer areas.

Putin acknowledged that Russian authorities should have foreseen and prepared to stop such attacks. Earlier in the war, the border was better protected because Russia held more adjacent Ukrainian territory, but Kremlin forces withdrew from much of it last fall under the brunt of a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

Putin’s long meeting with military bloggers, along with war correspondents from traditional news media, was a dramatic acknowledgement of their importance in conveying the Kremlin’s viewpoint.

In other remarks, Putin also said:

■ Russia’s defense industry has ratcheted up production of drones and other weapons but needs more, and the West is also struggling to produce more weapons and

ammunition.

■ Russia might pull out of a U.N.-backed deal to allow grain shipments from Ukraine through a demilitarized Black Sea maritime corridor.

■ The United States could stop the war by halting weapons shipments to Ukraine, leaving it too weak to carry on the fight.

■ The West will eventually realize it won’t succeed in Ukraine. “They will never see it happen. Never.”

While Putin spoke, the State Department announced that the United States would send Ukraine a new military aid package worth up to \$325 million, including a range of rockets, missiles and other munitions.

Putin mocked alleged Ukrainian battlefield losses, including of high-tech Western equipment Kyiv has received. He said German-made Leopard battle tanks and U.S.-made Bradley infantry fighting vehicles “are burning really well.”

Earlier Tuesday, his defense ministry published a video showing what it said was a Leopard 2 tank and a Bradley fighting vehicle captured from Ukrainian forces. According to the ministry, Russian soldiers shot the video after fierce fighting in Zaporizhzhia. It was not immediately possible to verify the video’s authenticity.

Ukrainian officials have been nearly as forceful as Putin in vowing to win the war, with Zelenskyy insisting his people will not relent until all of Ukraine is liberated from Russian control.

Contrasting with Putin’s dim view of Ukraine’s progress in its counteroffensive, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told President Joe Biden on Tuesday that Ukrainians are “making progress,” and that could bolster their position in any peace talks.

Environment

Young climate activists take Montana to court for its role in global warming

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—Rikki Held decided to join other young plaintiffs in a lawsuit to force Montana officials to do something about climate change after watching wildfires blacken the sky over her family's ranch, drought stress the cattle and violent floods erode the banks of a nearby river.

Held and 15 other young people finally got their day in court Monday after suing state officials three years ago for failing to take action to curb global warming. The case is the first climate change lawsuit to reach trial among dozens filed across the U.S. in the last decade.

They are trying to persuade state District Judge Kathy Seeley over a two-week trial that the state's allegiance to fossil fuel development endangers their health and livelihoods and threatens future generations.

"I know that climate change is a global issue, but Montana needs to take responsibility for our part," testified Held, now 22. "You can't just blow it off and do nothing about it."

The state court case centers on a government's obligations to protect people against worsening climate change. Experts say it could set legal precedent but isn't likely to spur immediate policy changes in fossil



Youth plaintiffs in the climate change lawsuit, *Held vs. Montana*, pose outside the Lewis and Clark County Courthouse in Helena, Mont., on Monday, June 12, 2023.

THOM BRIDGE/INDEPENDENT RECORD VIA AP

fuel-friendly Montana.

A lawyer for the state sought to minimize the case's significance and said sparsely-populated Montana produces a "minuscule" emissions on a global scale.

Held's family ranch in southeastern Montana is near some of the planet's most

abundant coal reserves in the sprawling Powder River Basin. State officials have continued to promote that fuel for export to out of state and overseas markets despite scientific consensus that fossil fuels are largely to blame for worsening climate change.

Held spoke on Monday

about getting heat alerts on her phone for temperatures up to 110 degrees and about a fire that burned power lines and left her ranch powerless for a month, meaning they couldn't pump water for their cattle.

"It's stressful," Held said, her eyes welling with tears, when asked her feelings about

climate change. "That's my life, and my home is there and it impacts the wellbeing of myself, my family, my community."

Attorneys for the state declined to question Held while she was on the stand.

Montana Assistant Attorney General Michael Russell said

during opening arguments that the state had little control over global emissions. The harms alleged by Held and the other plaintiffs can't be traced to specific actions by state officials, he said.

"Montana's emissions are simply too minuscule to make any difference," Russell said. "Climate change is a global issue that effectively relegates Montana's role to that of a spectator."

Russell also suggested that the plaintiffs, who are backed by a well-financed Oregon law firm, had exaggerated the case's importance, which he said was "far more boring than the plaintiffs would make it out to be."

In the three years since the lawsuit was filed, the scope of the case has been narrowed to whether Montana's Environmental Policy Act—which requires state agencies to balance the health of the environment against resource development—is unconstitutional because it does not require officials to consider greenhouse gas emissions or their climate impacts.

Judge Seeley has said she could rule that the state's climate change exception in its environmental law is at odds with its constitution, but she can't tell the legislature what to do to remedy the violation.

Climate activists convicted of damaging statue

VATICAN CITY (AP)—A Vatican court convicted two environmental activists of aggravated damage Monday and ordered them to pay more than 28,000 euros (US\$30,000) in restitution after they glued their hands to the base of an ancient statue in the Vatican Museums in a protest to draw attention to climate change.

The two members of the Last Generation environmental activist group, Guido Viero and Ester Goffi, also received a nine-month suspended sentence and were fined 1,620 euros apiece. A third activist on trial with them, Laura Zorzini, was fined 120 euros.

The trial stemmed from an Aug. 18 protest in the Vatican Museums, during which Viero and Goffi glued their hands to the base of the Laocoon statue, one of the most important ancient works in the collection that is believed to date from the 1st century B.C. They hung up a banner reading "Last Generation: No gas and no carbon," as Zorzini filmed them.

Their action was part of a wave of Last Generation and

related activist protests around Europe that have targeted museums and other cultural institutions, tied up traffic for days and otherwise caused disruptions in a bid to draw attention to what the activists say is the failure of governments to take action to fight climate change.

In closing arguments, the lawyer for the Vatican City State accused the defendants of exploiting Pope Francis' known concern for the environmental cause by causing "inestimable" damage to a piece of the world's artistic and cultural patrimony.

Attorney Floriana Gigli said Viero and Goffi knew their protest would damage the artwork, citing their decision to glue their hands to the base, not the statue itself, and yet never expressed regret at the damage caused.

None of the defendants was in the Vatican criminal tribunal for the verdicts.

During the previous hearing May 24, Viero and Goffi told the court they never intended to damage the statue, but also strongly defended their cause. Viero told the court he felt

an obligation as a father and grandfather to draw attention to Italy's failure to halt global warming. Goffi, for her part, recalled she had brought a glue solvent in her purse, but Vatican restorers used a different acetone-based substance to unglue their hands.

Vatican Prosecutor Catia Summaria had asked for convictions: she sought a sentence of two years and a fine of 3,000 euros apiece for Viero and Goffi and a sentence of one month for Zorzini. But she said if the court decided on suspended sentences, the defendants should be ordered to repay the full cost of the damage to the statue.

Gigli said the actual cost was impossible to estimate given the statue is a priceless artwork and is permanently damaged. She asked the court for an appraisal to come up with a figure, saying the restoration work alone had cost 3,148 euros.

In the end, the court quantified the restitution owed to the Vatican City State at 28,148 euros. There was no immediate word on an appeal.

Oil producers: Tech will soon handle climate-wrecking fumes; John Kerry says be skeptical

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.S. climate envoy John Kerry on Tuesday urged the world to be "very skeptical" about claims from oil and gas producers that emerging technology soon will allow people to adequately capture the climate-wrecking fumes emitted by their cars, planes and businesses.

It's "one big question mark," Kerry told The Associated Press of the future viability of carbon-capture technology, a debate at the heart of global negotiations on cutting emissions to stave off the most disastrous scenarios of global warming.

The International Energy Agency and increasing numbers of scientists, governments and global leaders and advocates are saying the only way to rein in climate change fast enough is to immediately stop drilling new oil and gas wells and sharply phase down existing drilling.

Many oil companies and oil states are fighting the calls for production cuts, saying that

still-emerging carbon-capture technology will come to the rescue. The burning of fossil fuels is the main cause of global warming, and techniques to capture enough of the fumes to make a difference, affordably and efficiently, have yet to be developed.

"Let's be very skeptical about this unless it's proven to work," Kerry told the AP after delivering a statement at a U.N. Security Council meeting. "We can't afford to play games anymore with the amount of fossil carbon that's going up in the atmosphere," along with methane and other climate-damaging gases from the oil and gas industry.

That doesn't mean that government, corporations and oil and gas producers shouldn't keep pushing for breakthroughs in the technology, he said. "If it could work, fine, you know. ... But we heard for 30 years about clean coal, and how did that work out?"

Kerry told the U.N. Security Council that "it's now indis-

putable — indisputable — that the climate crisis is one of the top security threats, not just to the developed world but to the entire planet, to life on the planet itself."

He said it already costs countries billions of dollars every year "just to clean up the mess, and most importantly, it costs the world millions of lives," including 7 million a year who die from greenhouse gas pollution.

Kerry stressed that 48 countries in sub-Saharan Africa account for 0.55% of global emissions and 20 countries account for 76%. He said they all pledged nearly 10 years ago to cut emissions fast enough to keep the rise in temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius, a threshold scientists say is about to be crossed, "but we're not all doing it."

He said he wasn't at the U.N. to point fingers but to urge all countries to start working together to tackle the crisis. He called for an immediate end to the permitting of new unabated coal plants.

Life & Style

The Beatles are releasing their 'last' record. AI helped make it possible

LONDON (AP)—Artificial intelligence has been used to extract John Lennon's voice from an old demo to create "the last Beatles record," decades after the band broke up, Paul McCartney said Tuesday.

McCartney, 80, told the BBC that the technology was used to separate the Beatles' voices from background sounds during the making of director Peter Jackson's 2021 documentary series, "The Beatles: Get



McCartney

Back." The "new" song is set to be released later this year, he said. Jackson was "able to extract John's voice from a ropery little bit of cassette and a piano," McCartney told BBC radio. "He could separate them with AI, he'd tell the machine 'That's a voice, this is

a guitar, lose the guitar'."

"So when we came to make what will be the last Beatles record, it was a demo that John had that we worked on," he added. "We were able to take John's voice and get it pure through this AI so then we could mix the record as you would do. It gives you some sort of leeway."

McCartney didn't identify the name of the demo, but the BBC and others said it was likely to be an unfinished 1978 love song

by Lennon called "Now and Then." The demo was included on a cassette labeled "For Paul" that McCartney had received from Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, the BBC reported.

McCartney described AI technology as "kind of scary but exciting," adding: "We will just have to see where that leads."

The same technology enabled McCartney to "duet" virtually with Lennon, who was murdered in 1980, on

"I've Got a Feeling" last year at Glastonbury Festival.

Holly Herndon, a multidisciplinary artist with a doctorate in composition from Stanford University, used nascent AI machine technology on her last album, 2019's "Proto," and developed Holly+, an online protocol that allows the public to upload tracks to be reinterpreted and performed by a deepfake version of her voice. She theorizes that the Beatles' recording was likely created using a process called "source separation."

"Source separation has become much easier to do with machine learning. This allows you to extract a voice from a recording, isolating it so that you might accompany

it with new instrumentation," she explains.

That differs from a deepfake vocal. "A deepfake is an entirely new vocal line spawned from a machine learning model trained on old vocal lines," she said. "While it does not appear to be happening in this example, it is now possible to spawn infinite new media from analyzing older material, which is a similar process, in spirit, to this song."

McCartney is set to open an exhibition later this month at the National Portrait Gallery in London featuring previously unseen photographs that he took during the early days of the Beatles at the start of "Beatlemania," when the band rose to worldwide fame.

Cormac McCarthy, author of 'The Road' and 'No Country for Old Men,' dies at 89

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—Cormac McCarthy, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist who in prose both dense and brittle took readers from the southern Appalachians to the desert Southwest in such novels as "The Road," "Blood Meridian" and "All the Pretty Horses," died Tuesday. He was 89.

Publisher Alfred A. Knopf, a Penguin Random House imprint, announced that McCarthy died of natural causes at his home in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"For 60 years, he demonstrated an unwavering dedication to his craft, and to exploring the infinite possibilities and power of the written word," Penguin Random House CEO Nihar Malaviya said in a statement. "Millions of readers around the world embraced his characters, his mythic themes, and the intimate emotional truths he laid bare on every page, in brilliant novels that will remain both timely and timeless, for generations to come."

McCarthy, raised in Knoxville, Tennessee, was compared to William Faulkner for his expansive, Old Testament style and rural settings. McCarthy's themes, like Faulkner's, often



McCarthy

were bleak and violent and dramatized how the past overwhelmed the present. Across stark and forbidding landscapes and rundown border communities, he placed drifters, thieves, prostitutes and old, broken men, all unable to escape fates determined for them well before they were born. As the doomed John Grady Cole of McCarthy's celebrated "Border" trilogy would learn, dreams of a better life were only dreams, and falling in love an act of folly.

"Every man's death is a standing in for every other," McCarthy wrote in "Cities of the Plain," the trilogy's final book. "And since death comes to all there is no way to abate the fear of it except to love that man who stands for us."

McCarthy's own story was one of belated, and continuing, achievement and popularity. Little known to the public at age 60, he would become one of the country's most honored and successful writers despite rarely talking to the press. He

broke through commercially in 1992 with "All the Pretty Horses" and over the next 15 years won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer, was a guest on Oprah Winfrey's show and saw his novel "No Country for Old Men" adapted by the Coen brothers into an Oscar-winning movie. Fans of the Coens would discover that the film's terse, absurdist dialogue, so characteristic of the brothers' work, was lifted straight from the novel.

"The Road," his stark tale of a father and son who roam a ravaged landscape, brought him his widest audience and highest acclaim. It won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and was selected by Winfrey for her book club. In his Winfrey interview, McCarthy said that while typically he didn't know what generates the ideas for his books, he could trace "The Road" to a trip he took with his young son to El Paso, Texas, early in the decade. Standing at the window of a hotel in the middle of the night as his son slept nearby, he started to imagine what El Paso might look like 50 or 100 years in the future.

"I just had this image of these fires up on the hill ... and I thought a lot about my little boy," he said.

He told Winfrey he didn't care how many people read "The Road."

"You would like for the people that would appreciate the book to read it. But, as far as many, many people reading it, so what?" he said.

McCarthy dedicated the book to his son, John Francis, and said having a child as an older man "forces the world on you, and I think it's a good thing." The Pulitzer committee called his book "the profoundly moving story of a journey."

"It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son, 'each the other's world entire,' are sustained by love," the citation read in part. "Awesome in the totality of its vision, it is an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation."

'Hair' and 'Everwood' actor Treat Williams dies in motorcycle crash

DORSET, Vt. (AP)—Actor Treat Williams, whose nearly 50-year career included starring roles in the TV series "Everwood" and the movie "Hair," died Monday after a motorcycle crash in Vermont, state police said. He was 71.

Shortly before 5 p.m., a Honda SUV was turning left into a parking lot when it collided with Williams' motorcycle in the town of Dorset, according to a statement from Vermont State Police.

"Williams was unable to avoid a collision and was thrown from his motorcycle. He suffered critical injuries and was airlifted to Albany Medical Center in Albany, New York, where he was pronounced dead," according to the statement.

Williams was wearing a helmet, police said.

The SUV's driver re-



Williams

ceived minor injuries and wasn't hospitalized. He had signaled the turn and wasn't immediately detained although the crash investigation continued, police said.

Williams, whose full name was Richard Treat Williams, lived in Manchester Center in southern Vermont, police said.

His agent, Barry McPherson, also confirmed the actor's death.

"I'm just devastated. He was the nicest guy. He was so talented," McPherson told People magazine.

"He was an actor's actor," McPherson said. "Filmmakers loved him. He's been the heart of ... Hollywood since the late 1970s."

Marriage has deteriorated along with man's hearing

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 40 years. When I married "Hugh," I thought he was the nicest man I had ever met. We have two grown children of whom we are both very proud. Hugh was laid off 19 years ago and said he was going to take "a little time off." Abby, he has never gone back to work.

I retired four years ago and got a little part-time job in a local shop in town. I do the housework, and our neighbor does our yard. Hugh goes to the grocery store, and that's the only time he leaves the house. We haven't been out to dinner in five years. He doesn't go to family gatherings, hasn't seen a friend in years and is always angry. No matter what I say, I get screamed at or thrown a death stare.

My husband has suffered hearing loss, which I am sure is frustrating, but he refuses to get a hearing aid and is always mad because he can't hear me or any conversation. We can't have a rational discussion because I have to raise my voice for him to hear me, and then he accuses me of yelling and walks away.

We are too tied up financially and emotionally for me to leave, and I have nowhere else to go. I don't know how to get through to him that blaming me for his problems is unjustified and undeserved. Any advice?

BLEAK VIEW IN TEXAS

DEAR BLEAK VIEW: You do not have to tolerate being verbally abused. Because you are unwilling or unable to leave, the next best thing would be to start leading your own life as much as possible. Stop enabling your husband to the extent you have been. He won't like it, but do not allow him to make it your problem. Talk to an attorney about separating your finances if it's possible. Continue working, socialize separately and make as happy a life for yourself as you can.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I thought I was friends with "Connie," but with what has been happening lately, she's obviously not my friend. She says she's depressed, which does concern me, but she is using it to get me to take her to doctor's appointments and to the store, even when it greatly interferes with my schedule. She expects me to cancel my own appointments to accommodate her and gets angry and dramatic when I tell her I can't.

It's very stressful. I used to care about her, but I can no longer take her abusive and disrespectful behavior. I'm thinking of ending this so-called friendship. What do you think I should do?

USED IN MARYLAND

DEAR USED: Connie may be depressed. She may also be self-centered and endlessly needy. It's time to tell her calmly

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



how you feel about what is happening, make clear that you have responsibilities in your own life that you no longer want to sacrifice and suggest that if she values the friendship, she should make other arrangements for transportation. If she can accept that, remain friendly with her but not at her beck and call. If she cannot accept it, your problem will be solved.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

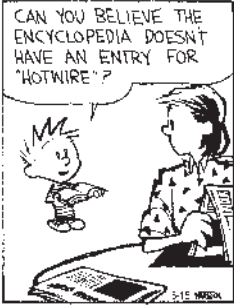
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

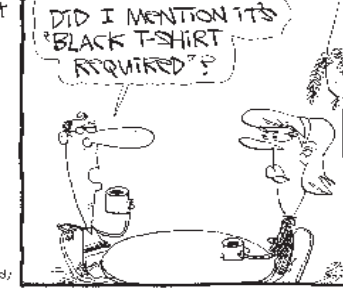
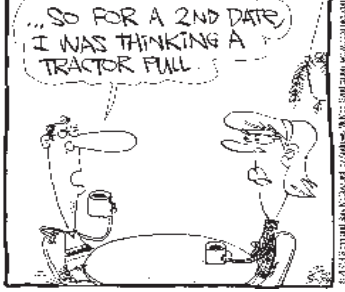


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Dance move
- 5 "It's c-c-cold!"
- 8 Cookbook author
- 12 Commotion
- 13 Shelter
- 14 Campus area
- 15 Part of Q.E.D.
- 16 Nero's title (Abbr.)
- 17 Exploits
- 18 Brunch cocktail
- 20 Landed
- 22 Succeeds on a large scale
- 26 Chill out
- 29 Numbered rd.
- 30 Notable time
- 31 Rocker
- 32 "— the season ..."
- 33 Trudge
- 34 Naval letters

DOWN

- 1 Flower part
- 2 Spelling or Amos
- 3 Dutch cheese
- 4 D.C.'s river
- 5 Dreary
- 6 "The One I Love" band
- 7 Meals
- 8 Parting words
- 9 U.S. region
- 10 Astronaut
- 11 Billboards
- 19 Kenny G's instrument
- 21 Fib
- 23 Writer
- 24 Pressing need
- 25 Lady — ("Parazzi" singer)
- 26 Enlist again
- 27 Gaelic
- 28 TV Guide entries
- 32 Three-part work
- 33 Guitarist
- 35 Year, in San Juan
- 36 Tire filler
- 38 Milk dispenser
- 39 Nuisances
- 42 Shade
- 43 Shakespeare villain
- 44 Chowder morsel
- 45 Winter bug
- 46 Dawn goddess
- 48 "Norma —"

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-15

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Neil Patrick Harris, 50; Ice Cube, 54; Courteney Cox, 59; Helen Hunt, 60.

Happy Birthday: Your witty demeanor will shine through and attract attention this year. Share more with the people you love, and concentrate on building a home that offers plenty of comfort and convenience for everyone. Connecting with people of interest and using your space to entertain and expand your circle of friends will lead to new beginnings and personal growth. Your numbers are 8, 12, 24, 27, 35, 38, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stick to what's doable; if you overload your schedule, you'll fall short and miss an opportunity. It's better to have something concrete to offer than to share tidbits of unfinished ideas. Finish what you start, and you'll gain respect and confidence. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emotions will be difficult to control, causing problems when you try to get things done. Problems will escalate at home if you or someone close to you is overbearing. Stick to the truth; if you embellish a situation, it will make you look bad. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your power of persuasion will skyrocket. Before you push others to join you, make sure you can deliver on your promises. Honesty and integrity will be at stake if you paint a scenario that is impossible to establish. Take nothing for granted. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let your attitude interfere with getting the help you need to reach your goal. Look for a unique way to take care of your responsibilities, and move forward alone if that's what it takes to get

things done your way. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Expect to clash with someone you encounter today. Find it in your heart to offer a congenial, positive attitude to overcome any negativity that comes your way. Concentrate on personal growth and self-improvement, not trying to change others. Romance is in the stars. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Say less and do more. What you accomplish will significantly impact your life and the lives of those around you more than what you say. Change is inevitable, and favorable results will unfold if embraced with enthusiasm and an open mind. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Listen to the information you receive and revise it to fit your purpose. Traveling, communicating and reconnecting with people with something to contribute to your plans are all worthwhile. Express your thoughts, feelings and intentions. Make romance and physical improvements your priorities. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let frustration set in when action is in your best interest. Address necessary changes to make your personal life better and your professional life less challenging. Mixing business with pleasure will result in complications that challenge your reputation and position. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stay ahead of the competition. Explore what's possible, do your best to present your skills precisely and make suggestions that give you leverage when faced with competition. Getting chummy with those controlling your destiny will offer insight into future endeavors. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Host or attend an event that can bring about positive change or introduce you to someone who can offer information that sparks your imagination. Don't let anyone make you feel like you must overspend. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stick close to home and family. Refuse to let outsiders interfere with your personal life. Focus on comfort, convenience and building a solid base for your dreams. Say no to temptation and yes to self-improvement and romance. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Pay attention to where your money goes. Implement discipline if temptation surfaces. Weigh the pros and cons of any offer, and carefully consider the consequence should you make a mistake. Use your imagination to come up with alternatives that save you money. ****

Birthday Baby: You are accommodating, social and detailed. You are lively and captivating.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			5		6	9	7		
	7					4			
	8	5			7	6		1	
6			8		5			7	
3			7	1	9	2	8		
7		8					9	5	
				4	9		8		
2	9			7		5			
			1	5		7			

Difficulty: ★★★ 6/15
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	5	6	9	4	2	1	8	7
7	8	9	6	3	1	2	4	5
1	2	4	8	5	7	6	3	9
5	7	3	4	6	9	8	2	1
4	9	8	2	1	3	5	7	6
6	1	2	5	7	8	4	9	3
9	4	7	1	2	5	3	6	8
2	3	1	7	8	6	9	5	4
8	6	5	3	9	4	7	1	2

Difficulty: ★★★ 6/14
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TRAVELING IN KENYA Solution: 11 letters

S U N S E T S E E B E D L I W
E R O L P X E W B A B M I Z I
A R C H A E O L O G Y A O T L
S C E N I C S N I A R A N A D
O H I K E E A E M B H A A N L
N K I L V N I E E S F M N Z I
E S A A N O E Z A R N J E A F
P A W A N R M V I S T A Y N E
A F V I K O I C L E T O H I R
C A H A M A A S A I M A R A A
S R T B N A I R O B I N A I D
D I A E R U T N E V D A R O R
N S K F R U I T N A H P E L E
A A M B O S E L I N O O B A B
L A K E N A K U R U G A N D A

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Aberdare, Adventure, Africa, Ambaseli, Archaeology, Baboon, Diani, East, Elephant, Explore, Fruit, Hike, Hotel, Hyena, Lake Naivasha, Lake Nakuru, Landscape, Lion, Maasai Mara, Meerkat, Mombasa, Nairobi, Rain, Rhino, Safari, Savanna, Scenic, Season, Sunset, Tanzania, Trees, Uganda, Waves, Wildebeest, Wildlife, Zebra, Zimbabwe
Yesterday's Answer: Bugs Bunny
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6460. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Scherzer tagged, Smith ejected as Yankees rally past Mets in Subway Series opener



**N E W
Y O R K**
(AP)—Clay

Holmes got out of a sticky situation, Drew Smith did not and the New York Yankees won a wild Subway Series opener at Citi Field.

Holmes escaped a bases-loaded jam in the eighth inning and the Yankees stormed back from four runs down against Max Scherzer to beat the skidding Mets 7-6 on Tuesday night.

“One of those fun ones,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. “Obviously the buzz around Mets-Yankees, and you can feel that in the building. To have a lot of really cool, big moments in that game and to have everyone have a hand in it, those are fun.”

Giancarlo Stanton and DJ LeMahieu homered off Scherzer, and pinch-hitter Josh Donaldson drove in the tie-breaking run with a sacrifice fly in the sixth after Brandon Nimmo misplayed a ball in center field.

Before the seventh, Smith became the second Mets pitcher ejected by umpires this season for using an illegal foreign substance.

“They said both of my hands were too sticky,” Smith said. “Really surprised, because I haven’t done anything different all year. Sweat and rosin. I don’t know what else to say. Nothing changed. It’s just, I think the process is so arbitrary.”

Nimmo hit his eighth career leadoff homer and Jeff McNeil had a two-run single for the Mets (31-36), who have lost nine of 10.

They opened a 5-1 lead in the third with the help of two second-inning balks by struggling Yankees starter Luis Severino, only to see Scherzer give up five runs and six hits in the fourth.

“You can put the camera right on me. I’ve got to be better,” Scherzer said.

LeMahieu’s two-run homer trimmed it to 5-3. Slumping rookie Anthony Volpe had an RBI double and Jake Bauers’ two-run bloop single over a drawn-in infield chased Scherzer and gave the Yankees a 6-5 lead.

“He threw some good pitches to hit and we didn’t miss them,” LeMahieu said.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner was booed by Mets fans in the sellout crowd of 43,707 who showed up to see the first meeting between the teams this season — played without injured sluggers Aaron Judge and Pete Alonso.

Luis Guillorme’s two-out RBI single tied it in the fifth, ending Severino’s night.



New York Yankees' Oswaldo Cabrera, right, celebrates with teammate Gleyber Torres after a baseball game against the New York Mets Tuesday, June 13, 2023, in New York.

The Mets loaded the bases with one out in the eighth. Holmes entered and struck out cleanup batter Francisco Lindor with a sinker in a seven-pitch at-bat and Starling Marte on a slider in a nine-pitch encounter to preserve the one-run lead.

“I just knew I was executing tonight,” Holmes said.

Ron Marinaccio (3-3) pitched a scoreless inning for the win, and Michael King worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his fourth save. Yankees relievers lead the majors with a 2.72 ERA.

“I think we threw like six guys tonight out of the bullpen and went scoreless, so just to be able to continue kind of what we started and kind of hand the baton over,” Holmes said.

Josh Walker (0-1) gave up Billy McKinney’s infield single to start the sixth and a double by Volpe that should have been caught by Nimmo.

Smith never even threw a pitch. As he entered the game, he was stopped by umpires on the infield for a routine check. Within moments, teammates and Mets manager Buck Showalter were also huddled around the right-hander.

Smith held out his pitching hand and pleaded his case, but was ejected by first base umpire Bill Miller, the crew chief. Smith likely faces a 10-game suspension, a significant blow to a thin and shaky Mets bullpen.

ATHLETICS 2, RAYS 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Pinch-hitter Carlos Pérez broke a tie with an RBI groundout in the eighth inning and Oakland beat major league-best Tampa Bay before a season-best crowd of 27,759.

Athletics fans swarmed the stadium in what they called a “reverse boycott” to protest the team’s planned move to

Las Vegas. Fans shouted their anger at owner John Fisher, and the team responded with its season-best seventh straight victory.

Hogan Harris (2-0) pitched seven stellar innings, allowing one run on four hits with two strikeouts. Trevor May earned his third save in five chances as Oakland’s bullpen recorded a save for the sixth consecutive game.

With the game tied at 1-1, Ramón Laureano singled off the Rays’ Colin Poche (4-2), advanced on a sacrifice bunt, stole third and scored on the grounder by Pérez.

PHILLIES 15, DIAMONDBACKS 3

PHOENIX (AP)—Zack Wheeler threw six strong innings, Kyle Schwarber led off the game with a 450-foot homer and Philadelphia beat Arizona.

The D-backs had their six-game winning streak snapped. Philadelphia has won eight of 10.

The Phillies had 20 hits and every starter had at least one, led by Bryson Stott’s 3-for-5 night that included a homer and two RBIs.

Zach Davies (1-2) gave up six runs, including four earned, over three innings. Wheeler (5-4) gave up one run in six innings.

TWINS 7, BREWERS 5

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Carlos Correa hit a two-run homer for Minnesota to cap a four-run ninth inning off Milwaukee closer Devin Williams.

Correa crushed a 1-1 changeup from Williams (3-1) into the left-field seats. Williams didn’t record an out as he blew his first save in 11 attempts. Josh Winder (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the Twins.

The Brewers lost for the

first time in 29 games when leading after eight innings and saw their losing streak stretch to five games despite a homer and season-high four RBIs by Christian Yelich.

ANGELS 7, RANGERS 3

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Hunter Renfroe hit a two-run homer during a three-run sixth inning and surging Los Angeles beat AL West-leading Texas.

The Angels have won three straight and eight of nine. Shohei Ohtani reached base all five times with a single, double and three walks.

Renfroe’s homer helped spoil the major league debut of Owen White (0-1), who was recalled from Double-A Frisco earlier in the day. White entered with one out in the fifth inning and gave up three runs on four hits with two strikeouts and one walk.

Jimmy Herget (1-2) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings in relief of starter Jaime Barria, who allowed all three runs in 4 1/3 innings. Carlos Estevez recorded the final two outs, leaving runners at first and third, for his 18th save in 18 opportunities.

ORIOLES 11, BLUE JAYS 6

BALTIMORE (AP)—Rookie Gunnar Henderson hit his first career grand slam to power Baltimore past Toronto.

The Orioles banged out a season-high 17 hits and won their fifth straight. They climbed 18 games over .500 (42-24) for the first time since 2016, when they last reached the playoffs. Adam Frazier, Ryan O’Hearn and Aaron Hicks also homered.

Dean Kremer (7-3) gave up two runs and eight hits over six innings.

Chris Bassitt (7-5) allowed eight runs and 11 hits in three innings as the Blue Jays fell to 0-4

against Baltimore this season.

ROCKIES 7, RED SOX 6, 10 INNINGS

BOSTON (AP)—Randal Grichuk had a two-run double in a three-run 10th inning and Colorado held on to beat Boston.

Jurickson Profar added a sacrifice fly in the 10th.

With an automatic runner on second, Justin Garza (0-1) walked Nolan Jones to start the 10th and Grichuk lined the first pitch he saw down the left-field line.

Rafael Devers led off the bottom half against Matt Carasiti with his second two-run homer of the game and 17th homer this season. After a one-out walk, Pierce Johnson got two outs for his 12th save in 14 chances.

Daniel Bard (3-0) pitched a scoreless ninth.

GIANTS 11, CARDINALS 3

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Mike Yastrzemski and Patrick Bailey homered, Michael Conforto had four hits and three RBIs, and San Francisco beat St. Louis.

Keaton Winn earned the save with four innings of relief in his major league debut.

The Giants have won five straight on the road and six of eight games overall.

San Francisco outfielder Mitch Haniger suffered a fractured right forearm after being hit by a pitch from Jack Flaherty in the third inning. Flaherty (3-5) allowed six runs on 10 hits over 4 1/3 innings.

St. Louis lost for the ninth time in the 11 games and fell to 27-41, its worst start since 1978.

San Francisco’s Luke Jackson (1-0) pitched an inning of scoreless relief.

CUBS 11, PIRATES 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Ian Happ hit a three-run, first-inning drive for his first home run since May 5, Christopher Morel added a three-run homer in the eighth and Chicago beat Pittsburgh.

Happ had four RBIs and scored three runs.

Jack Suwinski had a pair of solo homers for the Pirates, who have lost four of six after a six-game winning streak.

Jameson Taillon (2-4) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings for his first win against his original team.

Pirates starter Luis L. Ortiz (1-3) yielded four runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings.

PADRES 6, GUARDIANS 3

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Gary Sánchez hit a three-run home run, his sixth homer since joining the Padres on May 30, as

San Diego beat Cleveland.

Fernando Tatis Jr. hit his 13th homer for San Diego. Joe Musgrove (4-2) surrendered three runs on seven hits over six innings. Josh Hader struck out the side in the ninth for his 16th save.

Tanner Bibee (2-2) allowed six runs over four innings.

DODGERS 5, WHITE SOX 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tony Gonsolin pitched six shutout innings, Will Smith and David Peralta hit two-run homers in the first inning, and Los Angeles beat Chicago.

Gonsolin (4-1) allowed two singles after being staked to an early 4-0 lead.

Lance Lynn (4-7) gave up five runs and six hits in five-plus innings of Chicago’s first trip to Dodger Stadium since 2017.

MARINERS 9, MARLINS 3

SEATTLE (AP)—George Kirby struck out a career-high 10 as Seattle beat Miami.

Kirby (6-5) retired the first 13 batters. He worked six innings, allowing three hits and one unearned run.

Cal Raleigh hit a three-run homer in the second inning off Edward Cabrera (5-5) and Mike Ford homered twice for the Mariners, the second multi-homer game of his career and first since Aug. 26, 2019.

Miami’s Luis Arraez, the MLB batting leader, went 0-for-5 to drop his average to .384.

ASTROS 6, NATIONALS 1

HOUSTON (AP)—Rookie Hunter Brown (6-3) allowed four hits in seven scoreless innings and Houston beat Washington.

Mauricio Dubón, Kyle Tucker, Martín Maldonado and Chas McCormick homered for the Astros.

Patrick Corbin (4-7) walked a season-high five while allowing four hits and two runs in five innings.

REDS 5, ROYALS 4

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Kevin Newman had an RBI double during Cincinnati’s five-run second inning, and Brandon Williamson did just enough to earn his first big league win.

Kansas City lost its eighth straight.

Williams (1-0) allowed four runs, three earned, in five innings, and the Reds’ bullpen held on from there. Alexis Diaz handled the ninth for his 16th save.

Jordan Lyles (0-11) allowed all five Cincinnati runs on six hits and three walks over six innings.

Heat won East but will enter offseason with bigger goals for 2024



MIAMI (AP)— There will be a new banner over Miami's home floor next season. It'll have a Heat logo and will be added to the rafters

quietly, without any ceremony or sounds of fans cheering.

Eastern Conference champion banners don't merit a Heat party.

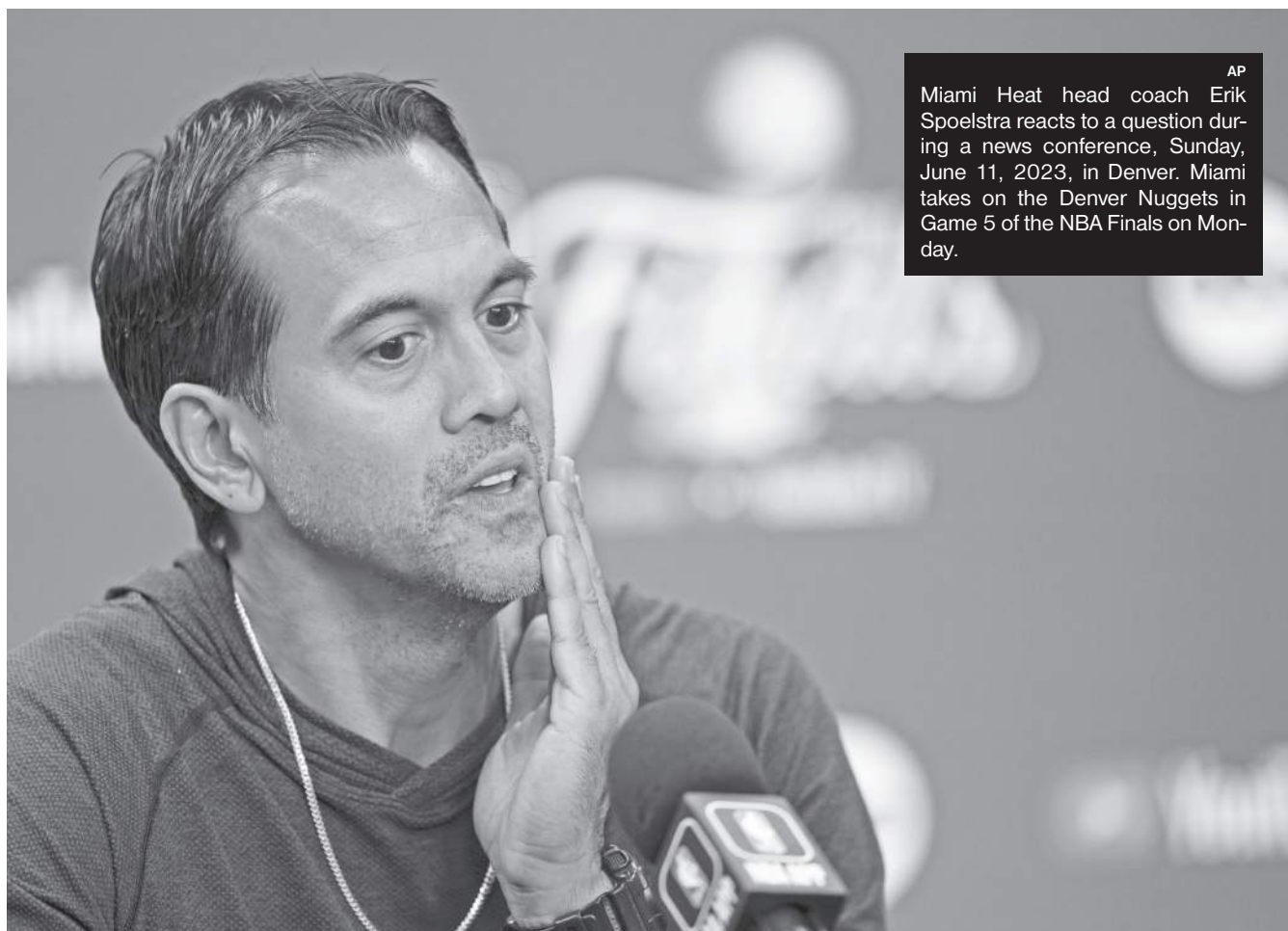
Only NBA championship banners get the blowout celebrations, and the Heat will have to wait at least one more year to get another of those. It was a surprising run—from nearly getting bounced in the play-in tournament to making the NBA Finals—but it ended with Miami falling in the title series for the third time in its last three appearances.

Denver topped Miami 4-1 in the finals, giving the Nuggets their first title and making the Heat wait yet again for their fourth.

"We didn't get the final win, but sometimes that's true in sport and also in life—that you don't always get what you want," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "But there's no regret from our side. Everybody, staff, players alike in the locker room put themselves out there and put themselves into the team, whatever was best for the team. And the tough pill to swallow is it just wasn't good enough. We ran up against a team that was just better than us in this series."

And with that, the goal is clear: Miami will be looking to make moves this summer. Big moves, probably.

As soon as Portland's Damian Lillard mentioned on a recent podcast that he would



AP
Miami Heat head coach Erik Spoelstra reacts to a question during a news conference, Sunday, June 11, 2023, in Denver. Miami takes on the Denver Nuggets in Game 5 of the NBA Finals on Monday.

consider Miami an acceptable trade destination—to be clear, there's been no indication that the Trail Blazers actually will trade Lillard anywhere, and Lillard also said he expects to remain in Portland to start next season—the clamoring from Heat fans started coming in waves. The team that put together LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh 13 summers ago is always mentioned in potential moves for the biggest names that might be available every offseason. And Heat President Pat Riley starts every season with one goal: to win it all.

"I think we'll be OK,"

forward Jimmy Butler said. "That's Coach Pat and Coach Spo's job to put together another team, which I'm confident that they will do, and we'll take it from there."

It was a strange year. Miami's longest winning streaks were four games. The Heat were the lowest-scoring team in the NBA during the regular season. They were actually outscored during the first 82 games. They lost the first play-in game, trailed late in the second one and were about three minutes from elimination, then won 13 playoff games—more than any No. 8 seed ever. They knocked out No. 1 overall seed Milwaukee

in Round 1, eliminated longtime rival New York in Round 2 and nearly wasted a 3-0 series lead against Boston in the East finals before winning a Game 7 on the road.

In the finals, they just didn't have enough—and tipped their caps to Denver.

"I think this is one of my favorite teams I've ever been a part of because we willed our way through ups and downs," center Bam Adebayo said. "We willed our way through the things that people said we couldn't do. So, for me, the future, I just take these lessons and I apply them to the next season. Whenever we go through adversity, I'm al-

ways going to look back and be like, 'We've been through adversity before.'"

As always, changes can be expected and there are roster decisions to make.

Gabe Vincent who became Miami's starting point guard—is about to become a free agent. So is shooting guard Max Strus, a full-time postseason starter in each of Miami's last two playoff runs. Both made \$1.8 million this season; they can now reasonably say they've earned big raises even after enduring some struggles in the finals.

Midseason acquisitions Kevin Love and Cody Zeller are free agents as well and

it's likely that Miami will try to keep one or both. Victor Oladipo has a player option for about \$9.5 million and is expected to opt in, especially because he's going to need some time to recover from a torn patellar tendon.

"I think the biggest part about that was the fun we had together, this group, after we picked up Kevin Love and Cody Zeller," Strus said. "It was just unique how we all came together and enjoyed this run together and just had fun. ... But we came up short. It's going to be a lesson that we've all learned, and we'll be better for our careers going forward."

The one player who surely is not coming back is Udonis Haslem.

Miami's captain is retiring after 20 seasons. He's the only player to have been part of all six of Miami's appearances in the NBA Finals, and the Heat already have announced that his No. 40 will be retired — likely in a ceremony next season.

"I have no regrets," Haslem said. "I'm completely fulfilled. ... They gave me a final season that I'll never, ever forget."

He intends to remain with the organization in a still-to-be-determined role. His game-night attire will change. His message will not.

"Winning a championship will be the hardest thing you ever do," Haslem said. "People only talk about the parade and holding up the trophy. They don't talk about the journey, the sleepless nights, the frustration, the tears, the pain. They don't talk about that."

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

There are a few business matters left to tend to around the NBA in the coming days. A championship parade awaits on Thursday in Denver, some end-of-season meetings for players are on tap in Miami, and Memphis is expecting word soon on what penalty Ja Morant's latest troubles will bring.

Then in a few days, all eyes will turn to New York.

Victor Wembanyama is finally coming, and that's where his journey will begin.

In a little more than a week, Wembanyama—the officially listed at 7-foot-3, once-in-a-generation talent who will enter the league with fanfare the likes of which hasn't been seen since the arrival of LeBron James in 2003 — will be a member of the San Antonio Spurs. The plan is that he'll fly to New York next week, be there when the Spurs select

As NBA season ends, draft looms, and that means Wembanyama's arrival is near

him with the No. 1 pick, then head to San Antonio to start the next chapter.

"It's going to be a dream come true for him," said Paolo Banchero, last season's No. 1 draft pick by Orlando.

There will be 57 other players—two picks were forfeited—chosen in the draft on June 22. Those 57 players, combined, won't generate anywhere near the level of attention that Wembanyama will get.

That's no knock on those players. It just speaks to the phenomenon that Wembanyama already is.

"In terms of living up to the hype these days, the coverage is exponential, more than what it was even for those players who historically were coming in with enormous hype," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "And so, even if it's below some level of expectation, it'll still be enormous. I was

with him when we were in Paris in January, and frankly, when you're 7-4, everywhere he goes there will be enormous attention, enormous focus on him. And he's used to that."

The NBA season ended Monday night when the Nuggets wrapped up their first championship by eliminating the Heat in five games. Wembanyama's season, however, is still going. His Boulogne-Levallois team trails Monaco 2-0 in the best-of-five French league championship series, and that matchup is now shifting home to Paris for Game 3 and Game 4 if necessary.

And in another example of how big a deal everything Wembanyama does is, he won't be playing in his team's home arena. Boulogne-Levallois actually moved its home games in the French finals to Roland Garros — site of the French Open that was just

completed this past weekend. A crowd of about 14,000 is expected to watch in the same stadium where Novak Djokovic reigned supreme on Sunday, and if Wembanyama's team loses, it'll be a chance for those fans to bid him au revoir before he departs for the NBA.

Former NBA player and executive Kiki VanDeWeghe said coming to the NBA will present some challenges for Wembanyama.

"Yes, there will be pressure. There's no doubt about it," VanDeWeghe said. "But professional basketball is about, more than anything, you're a paid competitor. You're paid to compete and you compete in front of a lot of people. It really, many, many times, boils down to how you handle it. Do I think there's going to be pressure? Tons of it. Do I think he's up for it? By everything I can see, it sure seems like it."

The first look at Wemban-

yama in a Spurs uniform could come July 3 in Sacramento, when San Antonio will be one of six teams participating in the California Classic — a smaller summer league before the full-scale, 30-team NBA Summer League begins July 7 in Las Vegas.

Tickets are flying for the Sacramento event, just in case Wembanyama plays there. Some courtside seats are on resale sites for more than \$500 apiece; for summer league, that's basically unheard of.

Silver said Wembanyama will be aided by the fact that he's already been playing professionally in France, so he'll have at least some idea of what to expect in the NBA — and, obviously, the Spurs have an elite track record with big men who land in their lap through the lottery, with Hall of Famers David Robinson and Tim Duncan the examples there.

He also suggested that

Wembanyama might pick up a thing or two from seeing this year's NBA Finals.

"The older I get, the more I learn," Silver said. "And I think the Nuggets and Heat are two fantastic examples of that at the end of the day, it's about doing the work."

VanDeWeghe also offered this reminder: Even for as talented as Wembanyama is, joining the best league in the world comes with a learning curve.

"He seems like a great kid and somebody who really has his heart in the right place," VanDeWeghe said. "His mind seems to be in the right place. But it's not an easy road. These guys are good. I mean, everybody's good. You step into an arena where everybody's got tremendous skills and tremendous physicality and tough mentally. Otherwise, they wouldn't be there. And so, it's a lot more competitive, but I really do think he will do great."

Michael Miller is youngest 3,000m winner

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Michael Miller outraced all participants of the 3,000m race on Day 2 of the Northern Marianas Athletics Track and Field Open Challenge Road to Oceania Cup 2023 last Saturday at the Oleai Sport Complex.

The incoming 14-year-old high school freshman came in first overall and in the men's



LEIGH GASES

Michael Miller, 14, is the fastest 3,000m finisher ever, after he topped the race in the Northern Marianas Athletics Track and Field Open Challenge Road to Oceania Cup 2023 last Saturday at the Oleai Sport Complex.

open division with a time of 10:28.03—the only runner that clocked in under 11 minutes.

Second went to Pony Tang at 11:16.49 and third was Sildrey Veloria at 12:10.36.

The women's open division went to Tania Tan with a time of 11:29.28 and second went to Tiana Cabrera at 13:12.71.

The master's women went to Michael's mom, Akiko, with a time of 12:05.61 and the master's men went to Jacoby Winfield with a time of 13:24.62.

Michael, who just started running last year, said after the event of being the youngest 3,000m winner, "It feels nice... I feel glad. I just kept on running and I won first place. I was leading the whole time but I thought the second place would catch up so I just kept running."

In the shorter 200m distance, Theo Rodgers won first overall in the men's open with a time of 24.52; second went to Alexander Camacho at 25.89; third was Michael Rodgers at 29.62.

The women's open was dominated by Casey Cruz at 29.29; second went to Maria Igitol at 30.15; third was Coleen Cing at 31.10. Orrin Pharmin was first place in the master's men division at 26.89.

The 800m women's open

went to Kaithlyn Chavez at 2:37.79 and Cody Shimizu was first in the men's open at 2:23.48.

In the discus throwing event, Cheraline Epity threw the farthest at 21.68m in the women's open division and second went to Maria Igitol at 17.70m.

The master's open division went to Lei Iguel at 21.62m and second went to Camille Pua at 16.79m.

For the men's open division, Lyle Andrew dominated with a distance of 33.89m and second went to Angel San Nicolas, 20.90m.

Chris Zemple took first place in the master's men division with a distance of 32.70; second went to Tony Ichio at 30.11m; and Daniel Joab took third at 28.60m.

The other throwing event that day in the shot put throw, Epity won first again at 8.59m and second was Igitol at 7.25m.

Igitol won first again in the master's women division at 7.56m and second went to Pua at 5.68m.

Andrew was first in the men's open with a throw of 11.03m and second was San Nicolas at 8.56m.

Results of Day 1 will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.



Northern Marianas Athletics

By **LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER



The U18 National Baseball Team is off to Palau this Friday for the 2023 Palau-CNMI Goodwill Baseball Event.

The games are scheduled from June 19 to 23. The CNMI boys—in their first international tourney—are facing off against four different Palau baseball teams including the Palau National Baseball Team that recently participated in the 2022 Pacific Mini Games.

The U18 National Baseball Team consists of Albert Adriano, Joell Borja, Justin Camacho, Kazu Dela Cruz, Joel Deleon Guerrero, Derence Diaz, Jon Diaz, Achilles Evangelista, Angelo Igitol, Charles McDonald III, Benjamin Palacios, Ylon Sablan, John Peter Sablan, and Jeremiah Suel III.

The team manager is Joey Dela Cruz and the coaches are Mike Cruz and Jeremiah Suel, and Vicente Palacios is the statistician.

On Tuesday, the team went up to the Office of the Governor for a courtesy call. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios welcomed them and said he is proud of them. "I hope you guys enjoy it. Play the game, but also enjoy... we want

U18 National Baseball Team off to Palau

to thank you, your parents, your coach, and the league for your continued representation of our Commonwealth. We're very proud of you guys. We've seen some of you guys develop since Little League, so it'll be a different world out there."

Dela Cruz to the governor said, "We wanted to make sure that we come here and vouch to be ambassadors in this tournament—and we will wear the name CNMI with pride and class."

The team was formed last August and is currently playing in the adult major league 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League. As of press time, the Junior Nationals as they are called in the league, are in second place out of 10 other teams, with a 5-2 win-loss record.

Dela Cruz, in an interview with the media after said, "We've been preparing since August of 2022. These boys have been conditioning and preparing for a really long time. Super Typhoon, Yutu and COVID had really robbed them of their critical development from the sport and they persevered, and as a matter of fact, the results are showing here at the current major league season."

"The team continues to trust the process and stick with the program and hopefully that one day, this is our next national

team right here," he said of the team.

As for the decision to send young ball players out to compete with older players in Palau, Dela Cruz said it's about the CNMI youth's development in baseball. "It's about investing in our youth and having continuity with the sport. As you know, there's no Little League. The only baseball program right now is the current adult league. So, I want to give thanks to Jay [Santos] and the Saipan Baseball League board for believing and investing in youth development and sending the Junior National team out to represent the islands out there."

The funding for the whole trip was through the Saipan Baseball League, with Dela Cruz saying that's another investment in the youth. "There will be reciprocity. After this, we'll continue to give them the opportunity to get experience and [be] exposed to this type of competition—not just on the local level, but regionally."

As for what's next for the team after Palau, Dela Cruz said that they will finish up the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League season. Then, they will have a tournament versus the University of Guam Tritons team, which is temporarily slated for July 25-30 on Saipan.

BLUE

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swished both free throws as the seesaw battle between the two teams ensued with 1:49 left in the finals.

Esdrelon and Ashburn would exchange flubbed free throws and a turnover before Guiab gave Blue Haus back the lead by duking out all defenders with his patented 10-foot pullup to make it 64-63.

Blue Eagle had several opportunities to take back the advantage, but missed a couple of makeable shots.

Then with 24.9 second remaining, Barrios stripped Javier on a rebound play and fed Marlon De Dios for an easy deuce to pad Blue Haus' lead to 66-63.

Javier was fouled by De Dios in the next play and made the first before missing the second. Fortunately, the 6'4" Reign was there for the carom and the ball found Jandoc behind the 3-point line but his hurried attempt missed.

De Dios was immediately fouled with 11 second left and made a free throw to make it 67-64, before Blue Haus let Ashburn score a meaningless 12-footer. Ashburn later said he was hoping to get fouled for an old-fashioned 3-point play.

Guiab was immediately grabbed on the inbound with 1.1 ticks to go and made the first before purposely missing the second, as Blue Haus

players and supporters erupted with a mix of relief and celebration.

Barrios led all scores with 22 points, while Guiab and Esdrelon added 14 and 13 points, respectively.

Ashburn paced Blue Eagle in the loss with 20 points, while Reign and Jandoc chipped in 15 and 13 points, respectively.

Blue Haus coach Dan Chan admitted that there were a lot of tense moments in the

championship game against Blue Eagle.

He, however, attributed the team's second straight championship to team chemistry and not wilting under pressure when the going got tough, especially in the last two minutes.

Chan then thanked the Saipan Centennial Lions Club, Blue Haus and its owner Cecile Camama, and SCLC league organizer led by commissioner Sonny Ebu for successfully organizing the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial

Lions Basketball League.

Results of the open division championship between New Chang Ming Market and Martech-Ol'Aces will be published in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

Blue Haus 68 – Barrios 22, Guiab 14, Esdrelon 13, Diaz 8, De Dios 7, Lauron 6.

Blue Eagle 66 – Ashburn 20, Reign 15, Jandoc 13, Javier 8, Francisco 6, Villarin 2, Mendiola 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-8, 34-24, 52-48, 68-66.

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smashes and kills and reduced him to plays at the net—which went in favor of Choi as he silenced Cordon, 21-9.

The tie-breaker third set was a make-it-or-break-it moment for Cordon as he fought his way past the speedster that was Choi. Cordon had the advantage first and led 4-1, but Choi was confident in his placements and kills and in a blink of an eye, Choi made it a 14-12 game.

Cordon's points toward his run at the Olympics hung in the balance and he fought tooth and nail to pull away further in the lead, as he finally made less errors, targeted his smashes well, and caused Choi to make errors himself. Cordon breathed a little better when he halted Choi at 18-13, then 19-

16, then finally, to 21-16—as Choi was overpowered by Cordon's lightning quick kills.

In an interview after the match, Cordon said he was happy that he won and is advancing to the next round after failing to do so last week. He acknowledged the speed of his opponents and said that his strategy this time was to be patient. "I like to attack most of the time...I tried to smash and smash, but these players, they're really fast and have good defense—that's one of the reasons it's difficult to play against [players from these] countries. But I had to wait and when I had a chance to smash, I did and that's why I won."

On his win, he said "I'm trying to qualify for the Olympics so any match that I can have the chance to win, I'll get good points for my ranking, that's why I'm happy

now... And also to beat these players, it's good because it's difficult to play against these countries. I'm from [Latin] America and they're too far and because of my ranking, I don't have the chance to play with these good players. For me, it's good training and I can see how much I improved and how much I have to improve—so it's good to play in these kinds of tournaments with these kinds of players."

As of press time, the following seeded matches have concluded so far:

No. 5 seed Wu Guan Xun and Yang Chu Yun of Chinese-Taipei beat teammates Tseng Ping-Chiang and Jiang Yi-Hua, 21-15, 21-15.

No. 1 seed in the women's singles, Sung Shuo Yun of Chinese-Taipei, defeated Japan's Misaki Kurashima, 21-8, 21-11.

Chinese-Taipei's Su Li Yang, the No. 3 seed, had his work cut out for him as he defeated Joakim Oldorff in three sets, 18-21, 21-7, 21-19.

No. 6 Takuma Obayashi of Japan eliminated USA's Garret Tan, 21-15, 21-5.

No. 3 Wen Yu Zhang of Canada was defeated by Chinese-Taipei's Peng Yu Wei, 15-21, 13-21.

Chinese-Taipei's duo of Chen Zhi Ray and Yang Ching Tun defeated No. 2 seed South Korea's Young Hyuk Kim and Yu Lim Lee in three sets, 7-21, 21-18, 21-12.

South Korea's Dong Keun Lee scraped past No. 7 Riku Hatano of Japan in three tough sets, 8-21, 21-19, 24-22.

Chinese-Taipei's duo of Fang-Jen Lee and Lin Yen Yu defeated No. 6 Ricky Tang and Angela Yu of Australia, 12-21, 21-16, 21-17.

COLIN

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to have his positivity and enthusiasm on tour has been a blessing. Thank you to Danny Llenas and Daniel Tudorache for helping me improve on the mental and physical sides of my game. Thank you to coach Jeff [Race] for all your insights and coaching and for always tuning in to my matches. And thank you to the Tan family for the support in helping me chase my dreams."

In the Rancho Santa Fe Tournament, the third-seeded Sinclair began his campaign by beating American Ethan Schiffman, 7-6 (3), 6-3, in the first round.

He followed that up by defeating another American,

Gianni Ross, 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (2).

Canada's Juan Carlos Aguilar was next and Sinclair easily dispatched him in a score of 6-3, 6-0. In the semis, he faced off against Noah Schachter of the U.S., who earlier beat No. 1 seed Aidan Mchug of Great Britain, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Sinclair avoided the upset ax and advanced to the finals with a 6-3, 7-5 victory. He then won the championship with the aforementioned straight sets win over Angele.

The championship in the Rancho Santa Fe Tournament adds to Sinclair's two previous titles in 2021 in Guatemala and in 2019 in Claremont, California. Sinclair has also won nine doubles titles throughout his career, including three this year.



Scherzer tagged,
Smith ejected as
Yankees rally past
Mets in Subway
Series opener.
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Saipan Tribune Sports

Michael Miller is
youngest 3,000m
winner.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Blue Haus repeats as masters champion

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Blue Haus withstood a furious rally that saw Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific take a late lead to repeat as champions of the masters division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Tuesday night at the Koblerville Basketball Court.



The defending champions got off to a terrific start, buoyed by the hot shooting of Finals MVP J.R. Barrios, but Blue Eagle clawed their way back before turnovers and bad shots did them in the endgame, 68-66.

Barrios was cooking like the various food stalls at the Taste of Marianas, igniting Blue Haus with 13 points as they took the first quarter by a mile, 28-8.

Blue Eagle was quick to respond though and with Andrew Ashburn hitting from outside and De Shawn Reign pounding it inside, they managed to trim their deficit to a manageable 10 points, 24-34, at the half of the low-scoring winner-take-all finale.

Both Blue Haus and Blue Eagle took each other's best punches in the third with the former trying to make sense of their once-imposing 20-point lead evaporating and the latter scrambling to complete their furious comeback.

The nip-and-tuck nature of the period was best exemplified by Blue Eagle's Mark Francisco and Blue Haus' Elmer Esdreton answering each other's triples that made it

50-46 in favor of Blue Haus with less than a minute to go in the third.

After bull-strong forward Junar Guiab's running hump made it 52-46 time down to 20 seconds, Tony Diaz fouled Ashburn with zeros left on the clock and Blue Haus in penalty.

The former New York City slam dunk champion then ached his two free throws to make it just a 4-point game, 52-48, entering the fourth and final quarter.

Blue Haus started the payoff period with 5 straight points, but Blue Eagle quickly retaliated and made a 9-0 run of its own to tie things up at 57-all following another triple by Francisco with 5 minutes left and change in the ballgame.

A 10-footer by Esdreton and a free throw on a technical foul against Jet Jandoc for slamming the ball gave Blue Haus a 60-57 momentary reprieve.

But Blue Eagle scored 4 straight points to grab the lead, 61-60, after a fast break layup by Jandoc and a put-back by Reign at the 2:25 mark of the fourth.

Esdreton then followed up his own miss for a putback, but Reign was fouled and

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MARK RABAGO

Blue Haus players join Blue Haus owner Cecile Camama, center, in celebration with their championship trophy after winning the masters division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Tuesday night at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

Top seed Kevin Cordon smashes way to next round

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Top seed Kevin Cordon of Guatemala smashed his way to the next

round of the TakeCare Saipan International 2023.

Cordon took on South Korea's Pyeong Gang Choi on Day 2 of the tourney yesterday afternoon at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

All eyes were on Court 2 as Cordon tried to redeem himself after losing in the first round of the first tournament last week. It was evident in Cordon's demeanor that he was out for blood this time around and made light work of Choi in the first set, 21-11.

It was on to the next set but

Choi bounced back and gave Cordon a run for his money. Choi caught his second wind and used his slight frame and speed to outpace Cordon—

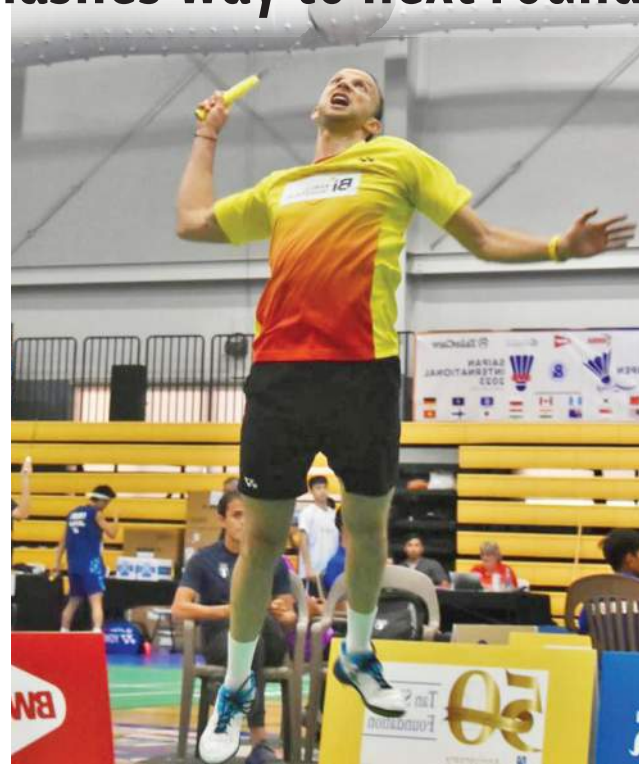
and led early, 6-2. Cordon couldn't find his target and missed his mark many times as Choi pounced on Cordon's wavering defense and racked up a huge 9-3 lead.

Choi took away Cordon's opportunities for his strong

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LEIGH GASES

Top seed Kevin Cordon of Guatemala leaps for a smash against South Korea's Pyeong Gang Choi on Day 2 of the TakeCare Saipan International 2023 yesterday afternoon at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



LEXIE WANNINGER
The CNMI's Colin Sinclair in action in the SoCal Pro Series M15 Rancho Santa Fe Tournament in California last week.

Colin Sinclair wins third ITF Tour singles title

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI's Colin Sinclair won his third singles title in the ITF Tour after taking home the championship of the Rancho Santa Fe Tournament in California last week.

The 28-year-old won the SoCal Pro Series M15 tournament after vanquishing Frenchman Jaimee Floyd Angele in the finals, 6-3, 6-2.

"I'm very excited to have

won my third singles title on the ITF Tour. It feels like the culmination of a lot of hard work over these past 18 months. This year I've played some good tennis and have won early rounds in tournaments but haven't

been able to sustain my level throughout. So it's been very satisfying to play well and cap it off with a win," said the son of former CNMI athletes Peter and Kathryn Sinclair.

The 219th-ranked men's doubles player in the ITF Tour also said he's happy with the championship in the Rancho Santa Fe Tournament because it allowed him to crack into the Top 400 of the men's singles rankings.

"The win also gets me into the top 400 in singles for the first time in my career. This will help me play in the next level of tournaments at the ATP Challenger level."

The 6'2" netter, who won three gold medals and a bronze in the 2022 Pacific Mini Games in the CNMI, thanked everyone in his support group for this latest achievement.

"I've been very fortunate to have great people around me and all my success can be attributed to them. I've been very lucky to have my dad travel with me this year. In tennis you are almost guaranteed to lose every week so

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